

The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXVI Number 5

MAY, 1936

Labeling Woolen Fabrics
and Garments

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Supreme Court Settles
Stockyard Charges
at St. Joseph

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The Secretary's Report
from Washington

Official Organ of the
NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS
ASSOCIATION
Salt Lake City, Utah

and the
NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING
CORPORATION
Boston, Mass.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE Denver Livestock Market

1886) FIFTY YEARS (1936
— OF —

STEADY, CONSISTENT GROWTH

From receipts of **108,614** head of live stock in **1886** to receipts totaling **3,841,671** head in **1935** at the Denver Market—an increase of **3500** per cent—the Steady, Consistent Growth of that Market is apparent.

Confidence of producers—modern facilities—a broad outlet—and larger net returns—have made the Denver Market grow.

An increasing number of Western Livestock Men will find the Denver Market advantageous to them the next Few Months or Fifty Years.



The Denver Market is worth
Millions of Dollars to the
Livestock Man of the West
come Directly or Indirectly

KANSAS CITY...

IS THE ONLY MARKET WHERE THE
FOUR LARGEST PACKERS IN THE
WORLD HAVE SLAUGHTERING PLANTS
ALSO MANY SMALL BUTCHERS, EAST-
ERN ORDER BUYERS, BROAD CORN
BELT FEEDER DEMAND



The four large packers and small butchers give
shippers to Kansas City a larger local demand than
can be found at any other market. With the "Sale
in Transit" freight rate arrangement now in effect,
Kansas City can distribute fat and feeder sheep to
eastern points more quickly and economically than
any other market.



*Your sheep will net more money at Kansas
City because there is larger outlet and better
feeding facilities here than at any
other market.*

1800 Rams

300 Purebred Ewes

at Auction



HAMPSHIRE	RAMBOUILLETS
SUFFOLKS	CORRIEDALES
SOUTHDOWNS	ROMELDALES
DORSETS	ROMNEYS

**The Choicest Blood Lines
of the Far West**

CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

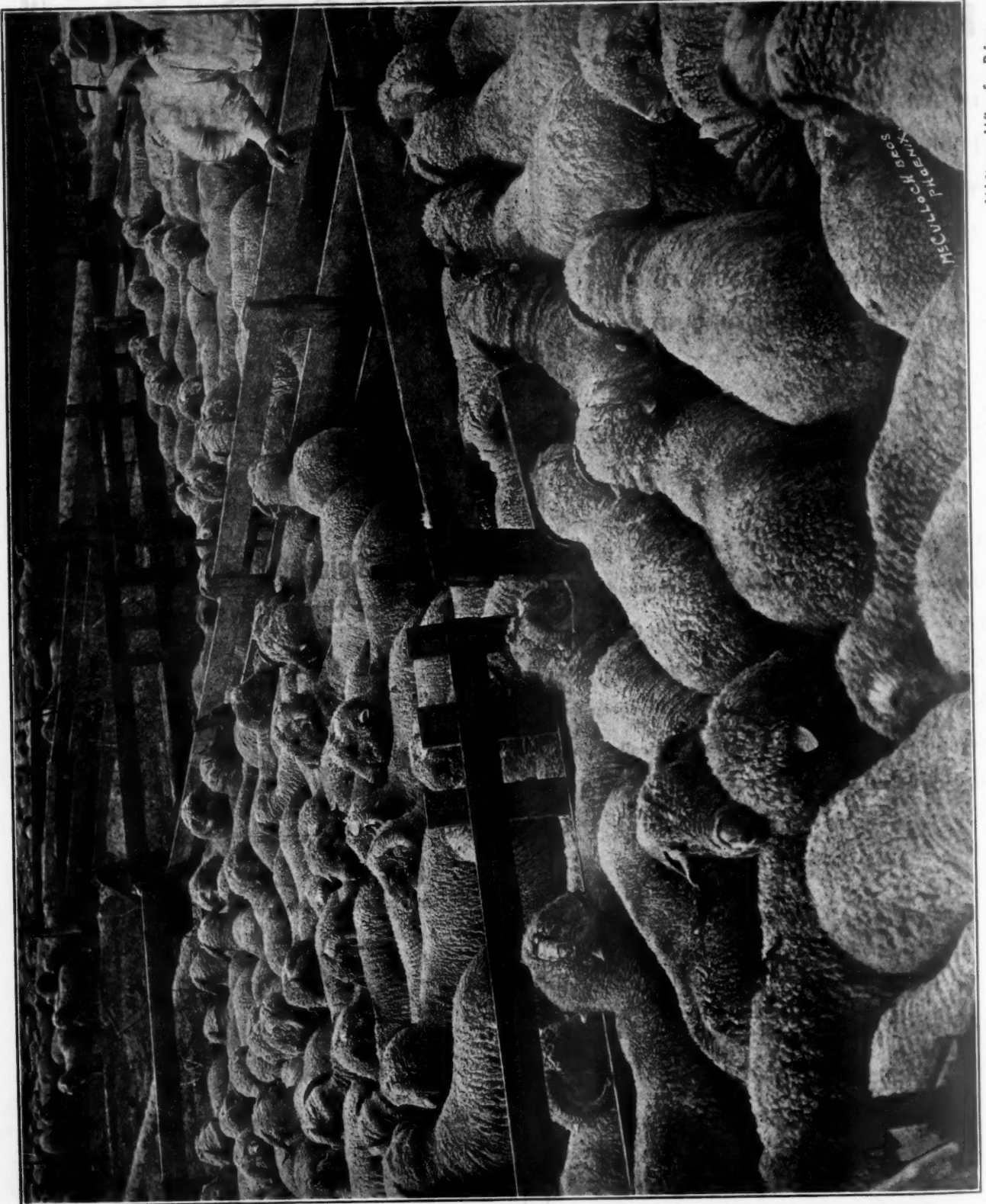
May 27-28, 1936

STATE FAIR GROUNDS
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Out April 28, to California Wool Growers Association,
595 Mission St., San Francisco

WOOL SHOW SAME TIME AND PLACE



Write or Wire for Prices
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 Seligman, Arizona

Box 27

The Gate Run As They Came in to be Shorn at Eleven Months, on February 22nd, 1936.
 OVER THIRTY YEARS BREEDING IN ARIZONA

RAMBOUILLET RAMS
 For Sale in Carload Lots

National Wool Marketing Corporation to Offer Auction System of Marketing in Boston

+ + +

ABOUT a year ago the Executive Committee of the NATIONAL appointed a Committee to make a thorough investigation of the auction system of marketing wool with a view of offering this service to the wool growers of the United States in the season of 1936, if sufficient interest is shown on the part of the growers. This committee interviewed practically all of the largest consumers of wool in the United States and the following features were clearly developed.

First: If the manufacturers are to be attracted the auction must necessarily be held in Boston where 85 per cent of the wool clip of the country is sold.

Second: The history of wool auctions at country points indicates that most of the wool so sold has been purchased by dealers rather than manufacturers. Manufacturers, generally, have expressed themselves as not having time or inclination to go to various country points to fill their requirements for wool.

Third: Manufacturers buy on a clean yield and grade basis. The wool must, therefore, be in the hands of experienced wool men who are thoroughly qualified to know shrinkages, grades and market values, and who are as well posted in these respects as the manufacturer who buys

the wool; otherwise the grower's interest will not be adequately protected.

Fourth: The wool offered must be strongly financed so that forced sales which are always extremely detrimental to maintaining market value, will not occur.

Fifth: These services can best be offered by the NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION at Boston where manufacturers fill their requirements for raw wool.

We plan to hold auctions every two weeks beginning September 15th through October, November, December and January, depending on market activity and volume offered. Growers will be accurately advised of prevailing market values in order that reserve bids may intelligently be placed as desired by growers. There is a marked tendency on the part of manufacturers to keep inventories of raw wool at a minimum. They prefer to buy wool requirements for cloth or yarn as the orders are taken. This necessitates spot wool.

We invite the wool growers to ship their wool to the NATIONAL WOOL MARKETING CORPORATION, the grower's own selling agency where it will be before the manufacturers at all times and have the distinctive advantage of either auction or private trading selling service as the grower wishes and market conditions warrant.

+ + +

FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS WRITE DIRECT TO THE

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281 SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

or to any of the following State Associations which we serve as selling agency:

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 Oregon-Washington, Miller Bldg.....Yakima, Washington
 WyomingMcKinley, Wyoming
 MontanaHelena, Montana
 Nevada, First Natl. Bank.....Elko, Nevada

Colorado-New Mexico (A. H. Long).....Durango, Colorado
 North DakotaFargo, North Dakota
 South DakotaBrookings, South Dakota
 California, 405 Walnut St.....Red Bluff, California
 Arizona, 120 S. Central Ave.....Phoenix, Arizona
 Colorado, 312 Conoco Bldg.....Denver, Colorado
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F. R. Marshall, Editor

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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The Secretary's Report from Washington

Washington, D. C., May 8, 1936

This page is again being written in Washington. The city is delightful in May, but I would prefer to be at home. I couldn't even argue with President Rich when he indicated that the interests of the wool growing industry and its association required that the Secretary-Editor should be where there is the most going on of direct importance to the production and sale of lambs and wool. The status and prospects of some of the irons that are in the fire are reported.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration expects to have a plan shaped up by July 1, under which owners of range lands may cooperate and apply for payments under the program of the Soil Conservation Act of 1936. It is the idea to put the plan into effect in September when it would be most convenient for range men to make such reduction in herds and flocks as would be necessary for conservation of private or public grazing lands.

When the Senate Finance Committee announced hearings on the tax bill passed by the House, it was stated that no witnesses were desired on excise or processing taxes. This meant that the committee did not intend to propose such taxes. Since the House had refused to consider them, the stockmen seemed to be secure. The Finance Committee is giving the House bill a serious overhauling. The revised measure may be before the Senate about May 18. Other Senators have said they will offer amendments to provide for further taxes for revenue and livestock may be included, which makes another matter to watch and be prepared for.

The House passed an amendment to the Taylor Grazing Act, providing that grazing districts may be organized up to a total of 143 million acres. The Senate Committee on Public Lands has had the bill for some weeks but has made no report. It looks as though the Senators prefer to let the Taylor Act operate as it is for another year, but there may be administration pressure for its amendment at this session. If any amendments are reported by the Senate Committee, it is held quite certain that those concerning land exchanges and leases, which were vetoed last year, will again be passed.

On April 29, Secretary Wallace, at the request of the Senate, submitted a report on grazing laws and lands. He recommended that government grazing lands be administered by concentrating authority and responsibility in one department. The report has not yet been printed. I don't know just what it contains or what is back of it. Maybe it's just another move in departmental strategy.

But the Senate, House, and the President, each have named committees on reorganization of government departments and bureaus. This is a perennial topic, like the weather. It causes much conversation, but little action. Perhaps it will be different this time.

Last month we reported the action of the Senate in defeating the Capper bill and passing the Murphy bill. Both would amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. The House Committee on Agriculture has announced early hearings on the Murphy bill. The Farm Bureau and some cooperatives, when finding that the Capper bill was out, began to work for the Murphy bill. This measure would not create any more public stockyards or any more regulation. It would tighten up the inadequate provisions of the present law under which both stockyards and commission houses have been able to drag rate cases through long hearings and subsequent court procedure.

The decision of the Supreme Court, on April 27, closed the case of yardage charges at the St. Joseph market by completely sustaining the action of the Secretary of Agriculture. The lower rates will take effect on May 10 and the yards company must refund to shippers some \$150,000. This represents the amount collected under the old rates since the order of the Secretary on May 4, 1934, calling for the lower yardage charges.

This closing of this case should hasten the disposition of similar cases pending at other markets and simplify and shorten future procedures.

The Chicago and Kansas City commission cases have been argued before the Supreme Court and decisions are expected before the summer recess.

On April 30, I attended a meeting, in New York, of the executive committee of Associated Wool Industries. Wool dealers and manufacturers are enthusiastic over the results obtained during the first year's activities under the direction of Mr. Morse. Their support for the next year is assured. Much interest was shown in the efforts of dealers to collect 10 cents

**Bureau
of
Grazing**

**Stock
Yards**

**Soil
Conservation**

**Excise
Taxes**

**Taylor
Act**

A.W.I.

per bag from growers for support of the wool promotion campaign. It looks as though the growers' contribution on 1936 clips will run into real figures. The final result should be known in July.

The Senate investigation of the wool trade is continuing quietly and slowly. No announcement of public hearings has been made. It seems to be the plan to get all the facts before going into hearings or considering possible legislation. Reluctance on the part of some dealers to fill out a questionnaire covering expenses of operations and commission and salaries paid has caused some delay, but probably this will be ironed out soon.

The manufacturers are seriously disturbed over increasing imports of cloth from Japan. Under the present law the manufacturers' protection is on a percentage of the invoice

Imports costs. This makes a low duty on goods produced by the very cheap labor in Japanese mills. All ad valorem duties should be based on American valuation. Under the 1930 law the President may require that that method be employed. He is being asked to exercise that power now.

The hat manufacturers use a good deal of short felting wools from Texas and California. A trade agreement with France has been under negotiation for some time. The French were asking for lower duties on their felt hats exported to the United States. We joined in opposition to such a concession. It would allow Italy and other countries to enjoy the rate regardless of whether they lowered duties on any American exports. Such is the way the tariff is handled nowadays.

The State Department announced today that the agreement with France has been signed and that its terms will be made known on May 13. F. R. Marshall.

Supreme Court Settles Stockyard Charges at St. Joseph

IT has taken five and one-half years finally to settle the question of charges for yardage to be collected by the stockyards company at the St. Joseph market. The Supreme Court's approval of the action and findings of the Secretary of Agriculture sets a precedent which should discourage future legal appeals and permit shippers promptly to secure the benefits of decisions on rates made by the Secretary at other markets.

The old and new rates on carlot shipments at St. Joseph are shown:

	Old	New
Cattle	35 cents each	27 cents
Hogs	12 cents each	8 cents
Sheep	8 cents each	6 cents

The old rates have been continued in effect. The yards company is required by the court to return to those from whom the charges were collected the amount charged above the new scale.

In 1921 Congress passed the Packers and Stockyards Act for the purpose of furnishing a way of preventing wrong practices in the commission method of handling livestock at public markets and to insure that charges paid by producer-shippers for services at stockyards would be fair and reasonable.

The enforcement of the P. S. Y. Act was placed with the Department of Agriculture and in recent years has been handled through a special division in the Bureau of Animal Industry of that department. Early in the life of the new law the Supreme Court was

called upon and ruled that the law was constitutional and that transactions at public markets were in interstate commerce. Later the Omaha commission rate case was taken to the highest court and the action taken by the Secretary of Agriculture was approved.

On April 27, the Supreme Court again completely upheld the action of the Secretary of Agriculture in ordering a reduction in yardage charges at the St. Joseph market.

Many of the western livestock producers have come to the point of wondering whether, after all, the Act of 1921 is of any value, or whether the officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry are able or willing to secure justice for shippers who support the utilities set up for handling commerce in livestock. An overcharge of two cents per head in payment of yardage charges at a market will not of itself bankrupt a shipper, but it means \$5 per double deck car of lambs. The combination of such a loss with similar ones in selling charges, feed bills, and many other items in running the outfits before shipping time, easily can and often does make the difference between profit and loss. And why should

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

Ram Sales

California, Sacramento—May 27-28.
Texas, Ozona—July 3-4-5.
Idaho, Filer—August 12.
National, Salt Lake—August 25-26-27.
Southern Oregon, Klamath Falls—September 1.
Wyoming, Casper—September 22-23.

Shows

Centennial Sheep and Goat Show, Dallas, Texas—Oct. 29-Nov. 6.
Centennial Wool Show, Dallas, Texas—June 6-November 29.
Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah—January 8-14, 1937.
Ogden Wool Show, Ogden, Utah—January 8-14, 1937.
Denver Stock Show, Denver—January 16-23, 1937.

Conventions

California Wool Growers, San Francisco—November 19-20.

a western sheepman be indifferent about paying \$5 a car more than a fair charge to a corporation which, under the law, has the support of the government in securing an adequate rate of return on its investment.

This diversion from the issue of the St. Joseph case is partly by the way of explanation of how association executives employ their time and expense money in representing the sheep industry. Also, because the determination of these marketing charges has become so involved in court procedure that an association member who tries to understand the cases may well wind up with a "what's the use"?

Resolution of the National Wool Growers Association and other organizations have condemned dilatory and obstructive tactics of stockyard officials and representatives of commission men in fighting to prevent effectiveness of rates ordered by the Secretary of Agriculture under the 1921 law.

The record of obstruction, if not pettifoggery, at shippers' expense is exemplified by the case of yardage charges at the St. Joseph market. Swift and Company are commonly understood to be heavily interested in the St. Joseph yards property and it is probable that some other large packing concerns also have financial interest in St. Joseph, St. Paul, Denver and other markets.

The record of the St. Joseph case is this:

October 9, 1929: Secretary initiated inquiry into rates.

December 2, 1929: Hearing begun.

May 14, 1930: Oral argument before Secretary.

July 20, 1931: Secretary ordered lower rates. Company appealed to Federal District Court. Court ordered rehearing.

January 10, 1933: Rehearing opened; closed February 16.

February 2, 1934: Company applied for rehearing. Refused.

May 4, 1934: Secretary again ordered rates reduced. Company appealed to Federal District Court.

May 1, 1935: District Court refused to order rehearing.

THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Announces

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL

NATIONAL RAM SALE

To Be Held

AUGUST 25-26, 1936

Salt Lake Union Stock Yards, North Salt Lake, Utah

•<>•

ENTRIES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED

•<>•

Applications Should Be Addressed to

National Wool Growers Association

509 McCORNICK BUILDING

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

April 27, 1936: U. S. Supreme Court sustained Secretary.

Lower rates to take effect May 10, and excess charges collected (\$150,000) since May, 1934, to be returned to shippers.

The appeal of the stockyards company was based almost entirely upon the value of its property. For the value set by the Secretary, his rates, over a period of years, would have produced an average net return of 7.13 per cent, which I submit, and intend to argue later, is too high a rate of earning for the government to support in these days of 3 per cent government securities and of large loans by New York banks at 1 per cent.

The main point in these cases is based upon Article 5 of the Constitution, which declares that property may not be taken without due process of law. This is used to support the idea that prescribed rates, if too low, amount to confiscation of property. The Secretary had found that \$2,752,964 was a fair value of the property and that it should earn \$192,710. The company argued that appraisal should include \$600,000 for "going concern value." The Secretary ignored this and was sustained

by the court. The other principal difference was in connection with allowances for depreciation. In speaking of the depreciation shown on the books of the stockyards company, the court said: "It is quite clear that the amounts carried annually to the depreciation reserve were excessive."

The decision of the Supreme Court was unanimous. Mr. Justice Brandeis was joined in a separate opinion by Justice Stone and Justice Cardozo. While concurring in the decision, these three held stronger opinions than the others against reviewing by the courts of rate decisions reached by bodies created by Congress for that purpose.

Here are some interesting excerpts from that decision:

Surely all must agree with the Secretary of Agriculture that: "If rate regulation is to be effective, there must come at some time an end of hearings and a decision of the questions involved." Congress concluded that a wealthy and litigious utility might practically nullify rate regulation if the correctness of findings by the regulating body of the facts as to value and income were made subject to judicial reviews.

Our conclusion is that the evidence falls short of that convincing character which would justify us in disturbing the Secretary's finding.

The decisive point on this appeal is that in seeking a separate allowance for going concern value, in addition to the value of the physical plant as found, and in maintaining that the property was being confiscated because of the absence of that allowance, it was incumbent upon appellant to furnish convincing proof. That proof we do not find in the record.

The stockyards company, appellant in the case, made no objection to the rate of 7 per cent net earnings as allowed by the Secretary. Producers who pay the rates will seriously question the reasonableness of their being required to furnish such earnings in the light of money market conditions, the value of the service, and their own ability to pay. In the future rulings, the Secretary should base yardage rates on earnings not to exceed a rate of 5 per cent.

F. R. Marshall

Montana Wool Cooperative Elects New Officers

MEMBERS of the Montana Wool Cooperative Marketing Association met in Helena on April 25 and elected the following officers: Ray Holloway, Bozeman, president; M. F. Trask, Ballantine, vice president, and Mrs. Kathleen Nielsen, secretary-treasurer. The directors include Messrs. Holloway and Trask, W. D. McKenzie of Big Timber, Wallace Kingsbury of Valier and Andrew Beck of Deer Lodge, and the executive committee is made up of Messrs. Kingsbury, Beck and McKenzie.

At the meeting of the directors, it was decided that the Montana Wool Cooperative Marketing Association would take no active part in soliciting or handling wools this season. The National Wool Marketing Corporation will deal directly with the Montana growers through their representative, J. S. Blackwood of Chinook. The Montana Wool Cooperative Marketing Association will be continued in the event that at any time in the future a necessity arises for it to become active again.

Mrs. Kathleen Nielsen,
Secretary.

"Ding" Against the Ranchers

"JUST dawning on the American farmer is the fact that free range and the granting of cheap grazing rentals on the government domain don't help the general cause of agriculture at all, and that the next big step in working out a farm program should be a great restriction, if not the total retirement of such lands."

That is J. N. Darling, ex-chief of the Biological Survey and president of the General Wild Life Federation, expressing himself in the April issue of *Successful Farming*, published at Des Moines, Iowa. He also says many other things about the western livestock industry, but having in mind high blood pressures, weak hearts and bad tempers, we stop with the one hypodermic shot and give you instead "Ding" Against the Ranchers," an editorial from the March 25 issue of the *Portland Oregonian*:

When the lover of wild life and the advocate of the middle western farmer meet in the same person, as they do in the case of the Iowa cartoonist, J. N. Darling, president of the General Wild Life Federation and ex-chief of the United States Biological Survey, the western stock grazer has no chance of encountering sympathy.

The April issue of *Successful Farming* gives over its No. 1 position to an article by Mr. Darling in which the cartoonist argues that 200,000,000 acres of federal lands—all the actual or potential grazing area remaining in the hands of the government—should be withdrawn. And whereas he does enlarge upon the wild life benefits toward the end of the article, he gives the primary reason for the withdrawal as economic—as a measure calculated to aid the middle western farmers.

He would destroy the western range so that the middle western market would be enlarged and less troubled by competition. "In a day when the farmers of fertile, well-watered areas are asked to cut down production of wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, and other crops, it just doesn't make sense for Uncle Sam to give free or extremely cheap grazing privileges in the arid or semi-arid regions." All of which resolves itself into pure racketeering, so far as the economics of the situation are concerned. Mr. Darling himself admits that what he is proposing is a depression-scheme. He and the middle-westerners generally saw nothing wrong with the western grazing program so long as everybody had a market. But now that the market is more competi-

tive, it is proposed to destroy the competitor by law.

It would mean effectual destruction of most of the western states. Oregon, for example, has 80 per cent of its farm land devoted to pasturage and range, and much of this is in federal grazing lands. The economic system developed through decades would be overturned and the state left prostrate by such a change.

Naturally, the whole thing is unthinkable, and Mr. Darling is merely arousing the lust among his middle-western farmer friends. He realizes well enough that so far as the wild life part of his program is concerned, this does not involve any great reduction of the range. It does involve restriction in some of the areas and better utilization of federal lands already free of grazing, but that is a different problem. The point in which we are interested at the moment is that the Iowa corn and alfalfa growers would be glad to destroy the Far West as a cattle-growing region in order that Iowa farms might make enough money so that the owners would not have to live in Iowa any more, but could retire for their twilight years to the Far West. Somewhat complicated, but human nature.

In Memoriam

RICHARD HENRY WINDER

RICHARD HENRY WINDER, widely known intermountain livestock man, died on May 6, at Hayden, Colorado, following an attack of pneumonia with which he was stricken at his 2-Bar Ranch near Hayden on May 1.

Mr. Winder was born July 31, 1862, in Salt Lake City. In the early 1880's Mr. Winder engaged in the sheep business, and throughout his life had been active in that industry, with large property holdings in the intermountain area. He was active president of the Utah-Colorado Land and Livestock Co. and of the Murray Sheep Co.

Leo C. and Norman G. Winder, sons of Mr. Winder, have been actively associated with him in his sheep investments, and prominently connected with the sheepmen's organizations, both state and national, in recent years.

In addition to his sons, Mrs. Winder and two daughters, Mrs. W. W. Cassidy and Mrs. J. W. Jones, survive. Funeral services were held in Salt Lake City on Sunday, the 10th, at which sincere tribute was paid to the integrity and constructive life's work of Mr. Winder.

Labeling Woolen Fabrics and Garments

THE truth-in-fabric movement has been much discussed for 20 years and still there has been no legislation, except the Wyoming law which calls for labeling of goods or garments to show whether or not they have a wholly virgin wool content.

In 1920 the French bill was the subject of hearings before the Interstate Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington. Its introduction had been secured by the Wyoming Wool Growers Association with the cooperation of a prominent manufacturing concern that was producing a high quality of cloth containing no reworked wool, and advertised as made of virgin wool. The French bill required that a showing of the shoddy content should be carried on the selvaige of all woolen cloths and on the labels of each garment represented or sold as being made from wool.

The idea was that consumers give preference to goods shown to be made of virgin wool, to the benefit of the wool grower. It was argued that consumer buyers were entitled to know when they were buying reworked wool, whether such was made from rags, cast-off clothing, or the best class of tailor clippings which had never been worn.

The manufacturers, with few exceptions, were vigorous in their opposition to the bill. They objected to having to mark their cloth to show how much virgin wool it contained. They argued that such marks would be useless to the consumer because a fabric made with some of the better shoddy would in fact be more serviceable than some fabrics made from the lowest types of wool that had not previously been spun—virgin wool. It was also claimed that a law such as proposed could not possibly be enforced because there was no certain method of determining how much reworked wool actually was present in a fabric or garment which might be claimed to be mislabeled.

The French bill also was discussed on the floor of the Senate, but it never became law. Later on, Senator Capper of Kansas took up the question at the request of the American Farm Bureau Federation. In 1933 and in 1935, through cooperation of the Farm Bureau and the National Wool Growers Association, similar bills have been introduced. It was expected that the one introduced in 1935 by Senator Capper would be taken up at the present session of Congress, but the situation took another turn that so far has not led anywhere. But before discussing the manufacturers' plan to set up a permissive set of labeling standards, some of the old arguments referred to above which are renewed each year should be examined.

The wool growers feel that the consuming public receive a wrong impression of the value of woolen goods when they are sold as "all wool," garments that in fact carry a large percentage of short and inferior shoddy which often falls out with wear and makes people dissatisfied with what they bought as wool. The growers have said that if consumers are willing to buy such materials, or if they cannot pay for better goods, they should be allowed to do so, provided they are honestly informed as to what they are getting.

Some opponents of the proposal feel that they have disposed of it when they say that some shoddy is better than some virgin wool, which statement doubtless is true. But how much shoddy is superior to how much virgin wool? Some tags and some short and mushy back wool are inferior even though truly in the virgin class. But such stuff is but a small percentage of the wool shorn each year.

And some shoddy made from long, strong wool is of good quality. Some factory wastes and ends of yarns have been spun and are no longer to be classed as "virgin," but the weight of such material is small in proportion to the volume of ground-up rags that

finds its way into the hands of consumer buyers. And it always is admitted that no reworked wool ever is as good as it was when it was virgin wool.

On the point of analyzing a fabric to show the content of shoddy or reworked wool, there is a real difficulty. Chemistry doesn't do it because the composition of a wool fiber remains the same no matter how often it is put through manufacturing processes. However, the representatives of the growers claim that it can be determined whether or not a yarn or fabric contains any reworked fibers, at least with sufficient accuracy to allow labeling that will enable those who want virgin wool goods to get them and to let those who buy materials carrying shoddy know what they are paying for.

Most, but not all, manufacturers still are opposed to any legislation or recognition of any standards calling for labels to show the presence, or the amount, of reworked wool in woolen goods.

In the last two years, some of the mills that produce worsted cloth which carries no shoddy have been injured by competition from cloth put into the trade as "all wool" but which was found to contain as much as 80 per cent of cotton in some cases. Cheaper grades of rayon have also been used to adulterate goods sold to consumers as "all wool."

Last fall the National Association of Wool Manufacturers took up this question of adulteration with vegetable fibers through the Bureau of Standards of the United States Department of Commerce. It was proposed to have official recognition of a set of trade terms which could only be used for labeling goods made according to the standards set up for those terms.

For instance, it was proposed that the terms "all wool," "pure wool," and "100 per cent wool" could not be used to label or otherwise describe any fabrics containing any cotton or rayon. These vegetable fibers when used along

with wool are easily recognized by chemical tests and their amounts determined.

In accordance with the customary procedure of the Bureau of Standards, wool growers were considered to have an interest in the standards proposed by the manufacturers. The American Farm Bureau and the National Wool Growers Association were asked to name a member of a standing committee and joined in making the Secretary of the growers' organization their representative.

Secretary Marshall, President Rich, J. B. Wilson, and others have conferred with manufacturers and with the government officials. They have recognized the necessity of protecting consumers, honest manufacturers, and wool growers against the practice of selling cotton and rayon under the name of wool. But the shoddy question could not be overlooked and the spokesmen for the mills have been unwilling to recognize or touch it either through legislation or government standards.

As used in the standards being proposed, a fabric or garment made of the maximum proportion of the most inferior type of shoddy could carry a label, supported by the government, to show that it was "all wool." Such an arrangement, the growers cannot consent to. They have proposed that only fabrics that are entirely free from re-worked wool and vegetable fiber may legally be described as "all wool," "pure wool," or "100 per cent wool." Shoddy still could be sold under the name "wool," which perhaps is conceding too much. Fabrics containing material amounts of cotton or rayon would be described by other words. And so, for the present at least, there is no legislation and no promulgation of standards for woollen fabrics. It is difficult to see how any progress can be made until more of the manufacturers are willing to recognize the shoddy question.

Possibly something may be worked out before next year on the basis of standards of serviceability of woollen

fabrics. If the consumer can have the advantage of a label giving some indication of the wearing quality of the goods shown him, he would be protected against misrepresentation and disappointment and the manufacturer of

the better class of goods also would be benefited. Likewise the grower would be served because virgin wools would chiefly be used in the construction of the cloths that best stand the test of wearing quality.

I. C. C. Hearings on Opening of Butte Gateway

THE Interstate Commerce Commission, with Examiner John McChord presiding, conducted hearings at Ogden, Utah, on April 29 and 30, in the case instituted to restore through rates on shipments of livestock from Montana points through Ogden and Salt Lake to California destinations. At the present time, shipments of Montana livestock destined for the central and southern Pacific Coast markets, move on through rates over the North Pacific, Great Northern, and Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroads to Portland and down the coast. If shipped directly south from Montana through Ogden and Salt Lake, a combination of local rates, higher than a through rate, applies.

In the establishment of through rates, the power of the Commission is limited in paragraph 4 of Section 15 of the Interstate Commerce Act, which says "the Commission shall not * * * require any carrier by railroad, without its consent, to embrace in such rate substantially less than the entire length of its railroad * * * unless such inclusion of lines would make the through route unreasonably long as compared with another practicable through route which could otherwise be established"; but in cases "of shortage of equipment, congested traffic, or other emergency," the Commission is given the authority "to establish temporarily such through routes as in its opinion are necessary or desirable in the public interest."

Witnesses for the complainants in the Butte gateway case, the Ogden and Salt Lake stockyard companies, offered testimony to show that the present through route causes shrinkage in the animals shipped, necessitates more feeding, and otherwise is not in the interest of shippers, while the testimony of defendant railroads deprecated such statements.

For the complainants, the following witnesses appeared: Harry Snyder, president of the Montana Wool Growers Association; J. J. Baucus, Great Falls, Mont.; William H. Wyatt, Salina, Utah; Russell Wilkins, Ogden; Otto Hatcher, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Ralph H. Pitchforth, Salt Lake City. Their examination was directed by L. M. Pexton, Denver, Colo., vice president of the Ogden Union Stock Yards Company.

The Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Western Pacific roads were named as defendants in the case in addition to the northern roads named, but are not active in opposition to the establishment of the through rates asked for.

A preliminary hearing in the case was held in Los Angeles on April 22, and at the conclusion of the Ogden sessions, the Examiner ordered that briefs be submitted within sixty days. A final ruling in the case is not expected before late in the year or early next spring.



In a Washington Pasture

Around the Range Country

WYOMING

The first week was one of the coldest of record so late in the season; at the same time, snowstorms were general, and livestock showed some shrinkages, conditions being especially unfavorable for lambing and calving. Mild weather thereafter soon revived conditions to more nearly normal, though range growth is still rather backward compared with growth stages in other Aprils. Central and eastern sections were favored with ample moisture. The range is now furnishing some forage.

Savory

Conditions on the range here are good. They have been better this year than for the last two or three years and the feed for the spring and summer range looks good (April 29).

Our death loss this winter was about as usual.

The cost of sheep and camp supplies is higher this year and the cost of production is going to be greater also.

Loveland Sheep Co.

Kemmerer

Weather and feed conditions are about the same as in previous years,

with the exception of snow as against drought. Feed on the range is starting up in fair shape (April 27).

We estimate our death loss as 7 per cent greater than average.

There have been three clips of medium grade wool contracted at 30 cents; shrinkage around 62 per cent.

Supplies are considerably higher this year, and costs of production will be up also.

We also have more coyotes than we had last year.

Lincoln Feeders Corporation.

Dayton

Range conditions are very good (April 28). Just now, the feed looks very good, but there are a lot of hoppers and crickets in spots.

Our winter death loss was about 25 per cent heavier this year.

Lambing was about the same as last year.

Wools have been contracted from 30 to 32½ cents.

I believe the cost of producing lambs and wool will be slightly more this year than it was last.

Lewis McClure.

MONTANA

The first week was cold and wintry, being rather severe on livestock; the rest of the month was mild and favorable for crop and vegetation growth, for farm work, and for spring work with livestock. Both cattle and sheep are in only fairly good shape due to the severe winter. More moisture has been needed for the sustained production of forage especially in the southeast. The last week brought the month's only general moisture of note. Most animals are now subsisting solely on new pasturage.

Kevin

Our weather is good here, but feed is very short (April 26). We have had snow and sleet the last three days so grass on the spring range should be good. If we have plenty of moisture in the next two months, there will be good feed on the summer range.

We had about a normal winter death loss, but where they could not get feed through cold weather, there was a heavy loss.

We had to feed heavily last winter, which will add to the cost of running the sheep. Also, our supplies are somewhat higher.

The coyotes are not bad around here.

Carl A. Erickson.

Boyes

Feed is backward, we are in need of moisture (April 21). We have more moisture for April than in the last two or three years, but it has been colder. Spring feed looks fair, and feed on the summer range should be good.

Death losses have been heavy, in some cases as high as 50 per cent of the herds.

Some wool has been contracted here for 31 cents, grading one-half and three-eighths blood, and with a shrinkage of 60 per cent. We believe the cost of producing lambs and wool this year will be greater than last year.

There are no government trappers here and the coyotes are getting bad. Elgin Brothers.

IDAHO

The first week was exceptionally cold and bad on livestock, shrinkages being general, and a few losses reported. Thereafter unusually mild weather prevailed and livestock everywhere made a quick recovery and pastures and ranges made rapid growth. However, range forage is still somewhat backward, compared with the average season. Livestock are in fairly good condition, generally, some of them being in fine shape.

Idaho Falls

Since April 1 we have been having some very bad weather; heavy winter snows. Altogether it has been a cold stormy wet spring, much worse than at the same time last year. We usually are able to get to the early summer ranges by April 10, but this year it was May 6 before we could make it. Grass is fairly good on the range, but it has been difficult to get to it on account of the snowdrifts and unopened roads. Summer feed will be good.

The lamb crop is about normal.

We haven't sheared yet, nor contracted our wool. Shearing will commence around June 10.

Production costs will be up this year, as camp supplies are about 10 per cent higher.

D. R. Ivie

THE notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of April.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

Salmon

We have had cold weather here and the feed is fair (April 27). Feed on the spring and summer ranges should be good.

Death losses during the winter were about the same as last year.

The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes is not as good compared with last year.

Wools have been contracted at about 30 cents.

The cost of production will be greater this year. Supplies are about 10 per cent higher in price.

Coyotes are more numerous than they were one year ago.

Horace Hyde.

Rupert

Up until the 10th, our weather was cold with rain and snow. Since then, it has been very good (April 25). Feed on the spring range is good, and the prospects for summer feed also are good.

We had a slightly greater death loss this winter. Lambing so far is probably not quite so good as last year.

Supplies come a little higher this year and cost of production will be greater than it was last year.

E. G. Isenberg.

Grace

Our valley was covered with snow until April. It was cold and stormy late in the season and shed lambers had a terrific loss. Spring feed is starting well and there is plenty of moisture (April 26). Prospects for feed on the summer range are good.

In lambing done so far, the number of lambs saved is about 10 to 20 per cent less than last year.

Some of the 1936 wools with a light shrinkage have been contracted for 30 cents.

The cost of producing lambs and wool will be 10 to 20 per cent more this year.

Coyotes are bad. They banded together and killed quite a lot of deer. As the snow was very deep, it crusted and the coyotes could run on top of the snow while the deer would break through.

Alma E. Hubbard.

WASHINGTON

The first week was cold and stormy, though with only light precipitation. Later the weather was somewhat milder, though still without a great deal of moisture, excepting some in the last week which was very helpful to pastures and ranges. Livestock have picked up materially as a rule, and are now reported in good condition. Many lambs were lost early in the lambing season, due to bad weather.

Orchards

I received your letter asking about the range conditions. I am not in a sheep country now, although I have put in over 30 years in Montana handling sheep, and I still like to keep posted on the sheep industry.

I think the National Wool Grower is one of the most interesting papers on the market today, especially the range letters. It gives everyone a chance to know the condition of the weather, the range, and the price of lambs and wool in the different parts of the country. I think every sheepman should have that paper, even if he only has a small bunch.

It also "wises" up the coyote hunter who is running short of coyotes where he has been used to trapping.

I think every prosperous rancher should take the National magazine. One could take the newspapers out of every state in the West, and still not get half the interesting news one finds in the National.

(Continued on page 29)

Price Fixing in Meats by Packers

ELEVEN packers were named in an order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on March 30, to cease and desist from price-fixing, apportioning of territory, and other similar practices in the merchandising of meats held to be illegal under Title II of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The packers to whom the order applies are: Armour & Co., Abraham Brothers Packing Co., Cudahy Packing Co., Jacob Dold Packing Co., John Morrell & Co., Memphis Packing Corporation, Swift & Co., Wilson & Co., North American Provision Co., George A. Hormel & Co., and the Birmingham Packing Co. The acts and practices on which the Secretary based his order occurred during a period starting January 1, 1927, and ending December 31, 1933, in the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Texas.

Under the Packers and Stockyards Act in its present form, no penalty attaches to first convictions in violations of Title II under which this present case falls, but fines or imprisonment follow conviction of failure to abide by the Secretary's order, or, in other words, second offenses. This part of the Packers and Stockyards Act would be amended by the Murphy bill, which recently passed the Senate but which has not yet been considered by the House, to provide for penalties on first convictions.

The effective date of the order in the present case is May 10. The packers involved, according to a recent issue of the National Provisioner, will probably appeal the order to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeal, asking to have it revoked or modified. In this connection, Charles J. Faulkner, Jr., general counsel for Armour & Co., is quoted as stating that "an appeal to the United States courts may be taken for abrogation of the order, because of the unfair and totally unwarranted impression that the Secretary's action may leave with the public."

The complaint in this case was filed by the Secretary of Agriculture on February 14, 1934; hearings were commenced on May 17 of that year in

Jackson, Miss., continued in Birmingham, Ala., and Memphis, Tenn., and concluded in March, 1935. During the hearings 900 witnesses were examined and 24,000 pages of testimony taken, most of which centered around the "alleged combine and unlawful acts affecting the State of Mississippi and similar acts carried on and affecting only the State of Alabama."

In his report and order, the Secretary opens his summary of the evidence with these two paragraphs:

Briefly summarized, the Government contends that part of the respondents held meetings in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1930 and 1932; agreed upon minimum prices at which they would sell meats in commerce; issued price lists showing such agreed prices; and sold meats in accordance with such minimum price lists; that such agreement applied to certain parts of Mississippi; that similar acts were done in Birmingham, Alabama from 1927 to 1933, inclusive, and that four of the respondents, to wit, Armour & Company, Swift & Company, The Cudahy Packing Company, and Wilson & Company, were parties to such acts both in Mississippi and Alabama. Each branch house manager or sales manager gave to his own salesmen a price list, and the Government contends that the prices shown on that list were made up from the price lists issued as a result of the agreements in the meetings.

The respondents, * * *, through the testimony of their employees, admit that they attended meetings either in Memphis or in Birmingham, and Armour, Swift, Cudahy, and Wilson through their employees admit that they attended meetings in both Memphis and Birmingham during the times stated; that they discussed prices and sales; that lists were issued containing items of meat and a price opposite such items was shown, and they admit that these lists were circulated among those packers present at the meetings and to a few wholesalers and jobbers of meats. They contend that these lists were advisory or suggestive only. They deny that they agreed upon prices or sold upon the prices shown on such lists.

The Secretary's Conclusions of Fact

Following fifty-four pages of testimony, condensed or abstracted from the voluminous record of the hearings, the Secretary states his Conclusions of Fact, from which these excerpts are taken:

The testimony of witness Hill was that he attended a meeting in Memphis and that certain of the respondents' employees were

present. This was not denied by anyone, but on the contrary was admitted by some who participated. He testified that a map of of the combine area, which was in existence before he attended this meeting, was at his insistence enlarged to include his own territory. An agent of one of the respondents (packers) admitted drawing the map, but explained that this was merely a map of the trade territory of Memphis. This testimony would have been more persuasive had any valid reason been shown for preparing such a map of the trade territory, or any valid reason shown for enlarging the map. If such facts existed, they were within the knowledge of respondents, and being facts peculiarly within their knowledge, and if relied upon by the respondents, they should have introduced testimony in support of their contention. Moreover, the trade territory of each of the respondents in Mississippi did not coincide. Hence the map did not correctly show the trade territory of each. No reason appears why, if it were the trade territory of the packer respondent whose employee drafted the same, it should have been sent to others such as Hill and Taylor.

* * *

Government Exhibit 28-C, without signature, to the effect of "Use your own ideas on Arkansas territory," is significant. It was not signed, and it may be pertinent to inquire whose ideas had Mr. Hill been using? So too, Government Exhibit 29-A, which was "No list. Follow your own dictations. Thanks for past cooperation." Likewise it is pertinent to inquire whose dictations had Mr. Hill been following?

It is true that every branch house manager for various respondents testified that he had not made any agreements as to the price at which he would sell meats and meat food products handled by him, and to this extent and inferentially that contradicted Hill's testimony, but Hill's testimony in a great many respects was corroborated along various lines. It is noted that most of the branch house managers failed to deny they had agreed that they would not go below these price lists. Hill testified that he received duplicate price lists, one unsigned from Memphis, and one on Armour letterheads from St. Louis, Missouri, which were issued as a result of the meetings.

* * *

The testimony by one of the branch house managers (of the respondent packers) to the effect that they wanted to see if anything could be devised to stop the tremendous losses they were taking, and that it would be perfectly legal to furnish for distribution an informatory list of what people believed was a fair market value for products, suggests an attempt to evade the Statute rather than to comply therewith; that there would be discussion of prices; that the lowest price suggested by anyone present would be adopted for the price list, and that it was believed that by getting

out this list they could stiffen up the backbone of the various interested parties; that he hoped it would have the tendency to cause managers to issue instructions to stop the losses they were taking; that the price lists represented composite views of those present; that if there were varying opinions of a half dozen individuals, that he, Winsler, who was issuing the lists in 1932, would arrive at his prices for the price list by making a fair estimate; that the price list might be his own opinion or a composite opinion, or a compromise opinion of the entire group—all of such testimony coming from the lips of respondents' witnesses, interested it is true, but whose interests were adverse to their testimony because they may have been subjected to criminal prosecution, is persuasive that there was an agreement. * * *

Mr. Wood testified that the lowest price suggested by anyone would be the list price. If these lists were informative only, or a matter of opinion, why was it necessary to list the lowest price? They recognized they could not get more. Does this not indicate that this list was an agreed price? Otherwise, why was there concern about adopting this price for the list? If these lists were merely expressions of opinion, as respondents contend, they would not necessarily give the low price. Recognizing that the low price would be the actual sales price, is it not more reasonable to suppose that they bound themselves not to go below that price? If no agreement were made between the participants, then why was there not an opinion covering a range of prices, thus leaving free the man with an oversupply to charge whatever rate his supplies permitted?

During the hearings around 30,000 invoices were introduced into the record as government exhibits, and an analysis of those that applied showed that in the Mississippi area, where the price lists were used, about 87 per cent of the sales were made at or over the list prices, while in adjoining territory, referred to in the Secretary's report as "open" or "non-combine" territory, less than 37 per cent of the sales were at or over those prices.

The Packers' Denial

Since the issuance of the Secretary's cease and desist order, several of the packers involved have again made denials of their participation in any combines to fix prices, and so on. J. P. Spang, Jr., vice president of Swift & Co., in charge of sales, has stated:

The facts are that Swift & Company has and has had no understanding whatever with any other packers to control prices, to divide territories, or to apportion sales.

There was convincing testimony of more than six hundred wholesale and retail meat dealers at the hearings that the competition among packers was exceedingly keen.

It should be understood that the conclusions reached by the Secretary of Agriculture do not represent a judicial finding. In this case, the Secretary of Agriculture was complainant, prosecutor, jury and judge. The case covered only small areas in Mississippi and Alabama.

A significant part of the testimony during the hearings is an admission by the attorney for the Government that prices in the parts of Mississippi and Alabama covered by the complaint were no higher than at other points nearby.

In regard to the numerous witnesses for the packers who testified that the competition between the packers in the areas covered in the case was keen, the Secretary's report says:

There is, however, another phase to this which effectually disposes of the contentions of the respondents. Conceding arguendo that there were variations in the prices at which the packers sold to the retailers, this is not inconsistent with the Government's proof. Even though the packers had agreed upon a minimum price, they were always at liberty to get as much over that minimum price as the traffic would bear. Stated more plainly, if a minimum price called for fifteen cents on one kind of meat, a packer respondent might offer his meat to the retailer at sixteen cents, another one at seventeen cents, and so on, without ever making an offer below the minimum price. This would account for such variations, but would not constitute a defense to, nor disprove, the charges.

Reasonableness of Prices

The point of reasonableness of price is covered by the Secretary in the following manner:

With reference to the restraint of trade, the respondents introduced evidence, and apparently relied upon the contention, first, that there was no agreement; second, that the prices fixed, if they were so fixed, were not unreasonable; and third, that those participating in the meetings and who received price lists did not control all or practically all of the selling in the Mississippi area or in the Birmingham area.

From what has heretofore been stated, no further discussion is necessary whether there were price-fixing agreements. Testimony by the respondents' own witnesses shows that those participating in the meetings controlled practically 50 per cent of the meat trade in the Memphis area, and in the Birmingham area, participants handled from 60 to 75 per cent of the meat trade. That this is a substantial amount goes without saying. Whether the prices agreed upon were reasonable is not material. In the case of United States v. Trenton Potteries

Company, et al., 273 U. S. 392, the Court said:

"It does not follow that agreements to fix or maintain prices are reasonable restraints, and therefore permitted by the Statute merely because the prices themselves are reasonable."

In the case of American Column Company v. United States, 257 U. S. 377, the Supreme Court said:

"Such close cooperation, between many persons, firms, and corporations controlling a large volume of interstate commerce, as is provided for in this 'Plan,' is plainly in theory, as it proved to be in fact, inconsistent with that free and unrestricted trade which the statute contemplates shall be maintained; and that the persons conducting the association fully realized this is apparent from their protesting so often as they did, in many of their confidential communications appearing in this record, that their purposes were not unlawful, that they sought only to supplant cut-throat competition."

It seems that the language of the court is peculiarly appropriate. On examination and cross examination respondents' witnesses stated and repeated that they were trying to supplant cut-throat competition.

The Time Element

A point was also made by the packers of the fact that the violations of the act, if there were violations, had ceased before the government instituted this case and therefore no authority existed for the issuance of a cease and desist order. The Secretary, however, cited sufficient court rulings to support his position in this connection, and said:

It may be assumed from the record that the practice of holding meetings and agreeing upon prices to the retail trade was discontinued before the complaint was issued. Although there is no evidence introduced by the defense that they were not, up to the last day of the hearings, engaged in the same practice, neither did the Government introduce testimony that such practices were being engaged in. The record demonstrates beyond question that such meetings were held, prices agreed upon and then the agreement ceased to be effective after a short time, but the agreements were repeatedly renewed. It is impossible to obtain evidence in a case and initiate an action in the same short length of time that respondents may initiate a combination and abandon the same. Such price-fixing agreements may be embarked upon, continued a few weeks only, and once it is known that the Government is investigating, they may be discontinued, and as soon as the Government investigation ceases, they may again be resumed. The only assurance that such practices will not be resumed is by an order requiring them to cease and desist resuming.

National Wool Marketing Corporation

News Bulletin



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GROWER OWNED AND OPERATED

Wool Market Report

THE absence of any sizable mill demand during the month of April has been largely responsible for the inactivity of Summer Street. Not since the summer months of 1934 has so little wool changed hands. The almost negligible amount of spot wool available with which to do business has contributed very largely to the inactivity. It must be said, however, that interest in wool has been at a very low ebb with both manufacturers and dealers. Such a market condition was to be expected. Certainly the tremendous rate of consumption of around fifty million pounds of domestic grease wool per month could not continue indefinitely, for at such rate the 1936 clip would scarcely run our mills eight months. This breathing spell, so to speak, has been cited by both manufacturers and dealers as the reason for talking lower values. Insufficient trading has taken place on Summer Street during April to establish a quotable market, therefore, all eyes have been centered on the West where shearing is now quite general.

Using the expression of a manufacturer, "the wool market in the next two months will not be made in New York or in Boston but by the growers themselves, who are now shearing the 1936 clip." It is quite certain that the bulk of the early contracts cost 85 to 90 cents clean landed Boston. Late purchases in the West have evidently been on the basis of about 75 cents clean landed Boston. The reason for this decline is not apparent. Manufacturers are paying such strong prices for foreign wools they have imported that it seems to some observers as though they were trying to bluff domestic wool growers into the position of selling their wool cheap so that manufacturing costs could be averaged down. Why mills should pay foreign pastoralists high prices and at the same time offer sturdy resistance on reasonable rates for domestic wool is difficult indeed to understand, nor can lower values be justified

by an analysis of supply and demand, for spot stocks of grease wool are the lowest they have been in fifteen years. The 1936 clip is estimated to be about the same as last year, or possibly slightly less.

Manufacturers' Position Strong

Consumption of wool for the month of March was slightly below that prevailing in previous months, for manufacturers are now making the transition from spring to fall lines. Current business is slow, but underlying factors seem very favorable. Consumer purchasing of men's clothing is estimated by wholesalers to be running 15 per cent above that of last year. Belief seems to be quite general in the goods market that trading will become more active in the latter half of this month, at which time women's wear lines will be open for fall and clothing manufacturers will be placing re-orders for men's fabrics. Strange to say, notwithstanding an easing in the grease wool market quoted at 15 per cent, the New York goods market has shown no weakening tendency whatever. In fact, it is said that some clothing manufacturers have sold as far ahead on heavy weight goods as they are willing to go at the present time, and are taking this opportunity to boost prices slightly.

Bonus Pay-off An Important Market Factor

June 15 will be the beginning of one of the largest pay-offs in the history of the United States. The far-reaching effect of this tremendous amount of money, exceeding two billion dollars, that will soon go to the country cannot be accurately estimated. Retailers of various lines are already laying plans and calculations for the purpose of enticing as much of the bonus expenditures as possible to their own respective lines. It has been carefully calculated that around fifty-one million dollars will be spent by 75 per cent of

those receiving benefits for clothing. This fifty-one million dollar item would be slightly less than 3 per cent of the total. It is not too much to expect that at least this small percentage will be used to replenish the wardrobes. This factor is expected to have a very decided effect upon the market all down the line from the finished manufactured article. A decided benefit was felt in the wool market from the distribution of a far less amount of money to the soldiers when the previous bonus was distributed.

Foreign Markets

The foreign markets afford no consolation to advocates of lower values. The Brisbane, Australia, sale, which is one of the last to be held for the season, closed with prices at the peak for the season. In fact, the foreign market has been increasing while our domestic market is being talked down. This has created such an unbalanced condition that foreign wools held in bond here in Boston have been exported for sale at London and Bradford and sold at a profit. This is a condition that rarely exists and illustrates very nicely the present wide spread between the value of foreign and domestic wool.

Territory Wool

Very little wool has been sold in the territory section in the last two weeks. A few sales of small clips have been reported at around 75 cents clean landed Boston, which is fully 15 cents per clean pound less than the cost of many earlier contracts. Just how this market could take such a nose-dive while the foreign markets during the same period continued to strengthen is difficult indeed to explain, except through a strenuous effort on the part of manufacturers and merchants to bear the market in the heart of the shearing season. The growers have the situation in their own hands to a greater degree than ever before. Now that the foreign wools are largely out of the way, the manufacturers must have domestic wools and if the growers are able to hold for 90 cents clean, which was the market here in Boston at which considerable wools were sold two months ago, the market could just as easily be established on that basis as the 75-cent basis of late sales. The great variation in the type and shrinkage of wool and conditions under which the clip is grown makes a concerted effort on the part of the wool growers impractical if not impossible. Thus we find fleece wools, or farm state wools, offered at a much lower clean basis than territory.

More Interest In Fleece Wool

Medium wools of the $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ grades that were selling six weeks or two months ago at 40 cents in the grease have recently been sold from the new clip at 32 cents, delivered to the mill. Early purchases of fleece wool in Michigan and Ohio were made at 35 cents to 38 cents to the grower. The mills refused to take these wools at that figure and the market promptly dropped to 30 cents to the grower. About two weeks ago an attempt was made to buy these medium wools in Ohio and Michigan at 28 cents, with little success. The market seems to be fairly well pegged in these two states at 30 cents to the grower for medium wools, with correspondingly less for fine and rejects. Semi-bright wools from the Dakotas and the Mississippi Valley are being offered in this market at 32 cents to 34 cents. Very little territory medium wool can be sold in competition with the fleeces to mills that are able to substitute one for the other as the fleece wools, or farm state wools, work out in the manufacturing process at a much lower clean basis due to a lighter shrinkage.

The spot market here, such as it is, is in a waiting position with occasional small sales, chiefly of old clip wools priced at 3 to 5 cents per pound above the lower basis apparently in the making for the 1936 clip. It is still an open question whether manufacturers will be able to dictate the price of wool to domestic growers or whether the wool producers will take advantage of the strongest position they have ever been in to maintain values and secure for their product a world market, plus tariff.

Table of Fine Wool Prices

THE figures below have been extended to show Boston values in the grease on fine and fine medium original bag type wools on February 10 as compared with the basis upon which mills were endeavoring to buy these wools on May 1:

FEBRUARY 10, 1936.			MAY 1, 1936	
	<i>Clean Basis</i>	<i>Grease Basis</i>	<i>Clean Basis</i>	<i>Grease Basis</i>
<i>Shrinkage</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>Boston</i>	<i>Boston</i>
62	90c	34.20c	75c	28.40c
65	90c	31.50c	75c	26.25c
68	90c	28.80c	75c	24.00c

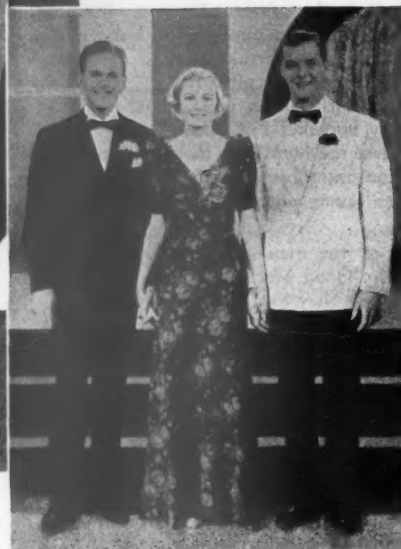
These figures speak for themselves. The National Wool Marketing Corporation is decidedly not ready to recognize that there is any sound basis for such a variation and we strongly invite your cooperation with us to remedy this situation by consigning.

For the Well Dressed:



Photos reproduced from News Bulletin
of Associated Wool Industries;
Shown Through Courtesy
of Fox Movietone

New Fashions in Wool



AMERICAN BREEDERS INVITED TO ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW AND INTERNATIONAL SHEEPBREEDERS' CONFERENCE

THE following communication from Mr. Harry B. Brown, secretary of the National Sheep-Breeders' Association of London, has been received by the National Wool Growers Association:

The 35th International Conference of Sheep-Breeders will be held at Bristol (England) in the council chamber of the Council House (by kind permission of the Lord Mayor and Corporation), on Monday, June 29th, 1936, at five o'clock in the afternoon of the day preceding the opening of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show in that town.

The subject for discussion will be a paper read by Professor A. T. King, B.Sc., F.I.C., Head of the Department of Textile Industries, The University, Leeds, on "Wool: Its Characteristics, Uses and Manufacture," illustrated with lantern slides.

I am directed by my President and Council to express the hope that any visitors

New spring fashions in wool were featured recently in a 20th Century-Fox Fashion Newsreel directed by Vyvyan Donner. Apparel for men and women was presented together for the first time and included garments for formal, informal and sportswear.

Three groups in this newsreel are shown here. At the left, the latest in formal cutaways for Sunday mornings, and one of the newest sheer wool suits for women are modeled.

Above, a very smart black wool broadcloth dinner suit for women, with white matelesse vestee, and double breasted navy blue flannel jacket worn with striped white flannel trousers are shown.

At the right, a midnight blue tropical worsted tux, a wool challis dinner gown, and a white tropical worsted dinner jacket worn with black tropical worsted trousers are presented.

from your country who may be in England, interested in the pastoral industry, will honor them by being present at the International Conference. I may mention that the National Sheep Breeders' Association is fully representative of all the leading breeds of British sheep, and I am confident that any visitors who attend such conference will gather useful and valuable information in respect to the industry in which they are interested. Should it be possible, I should be much obliged if you

would kindly inform me of the names of such visitors, together with their addresses in England, to which a copy of the paper and admission tickets will be forwarded in due course. An open invitation is also extended to any of your representatives resident in Great Britain who would be interested in the subject.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England will welcome any visitors to the conference from Overseas at the Royal Show at Bristol from June 30th to the 4th of July and will send to them the necessary invitation and complimentary ticket if they will be good enough to advise me of their desire to attend the Show in good time.

British sheep breeders who are exhibiting or arranging to attend the Bristol Show are also urged to attend this conference and meet any colonial or foreign visitors. Invitation cards will be gladly forwarded on application.

Application for invitation cards to the Royal Show and the International Conference should be addressed to Mr. Harry B. Brown, Secretary, National Sheep-Breeders' Association, Sentinel House, Southampton Row, London, W. C. I.

With the Women's Auxiliaries

LAMBING TIME AT THE RANCH

(As the Cook Sees It)

By MRS. INA DEWEES DAVIS

Contributed to the Auxiliary Section by Mrs. Archie Prior, Yakima, Washington
Before the first faint light of dawn,
I hurry to get breakfast on,
Hastily get the coffee pot
Filled with coffee, piping hot;
Many hotcakes I'm baking soon,
To last the men from morn till noon,
Bacon and eggs and spuds I bring,
Then scurry out, the bell to ring.

All of the men come trotting in,
With "Good Morning," and merry grin,
Quickly they eat, and then away,
A million things to do today.
There's many sacks of grain to feed,
A load of hay we quickly need.
For bawling lambs and bawling ewes
Have not a minute they can lose.

The watering troughs require much care;
Men feed potatoes here and there,
Then harness up and drive away
To haul another load of hay.
And all through lambing, every day
The feeding must go on this way;
Each one must work until he's dead
To keep the pens of sheep all fed.

Men come hurrying o'er the hill,
Carrying lambs, the pens to fill,
Followed by protesting ewes
All worried lest their lamb they lose.
Every kind of lamb we see,
Singles, and twins, and sometimes three;
Some white, some black, spotted lambs too,
None straying far from the mother ewe.

And every day from night till morn,
Into this world more lambs are born,
When every lamb and every ewe,
Receives the care that is their due,
At shipping time they will repay,
The trouble they have been today;
Broad, yellow backs will be the style
That makes the happy sheepman smile.

And so I cook good things to eat,
Bake cake and pies, cook bread and meat;
All vegetables that can be had,
To make the hungry sheepman glad.
And every day it's o'er and o'er,
Until we close the cookhouse door;
Came magic words that made the change,
"The grass is growing on the range!"

In bunches then they start away;
"We'll send the oldest lambs today."
A noisy din then greets my ear,
Men mixing bunches, far and near,
Away to hills with grasses green,
With water flowing in between.
And Oh! How thankful all appear,
That lambing comes but once a year.

Chapter Activities

OREGON

Umatilla

THE Umatilla Co. Chapter No. 4 of Ladies Auxiliary to Oregon State Wool Growers held their monthly meeting in the Library Club room in Pendleton, April 11, with six members and one visitor present.

Mrs. Wyrick, president, presided.

Mrs. Carolyn Thompson gave a very interesting talk on lamb. A piano solo was enjoyed and refreshments served.

The program chairman was re-appointed. We are looking forward to our State President giving us some new ideas along educational lines. Our next meeting will be held at Frazier's Farm, May 9, 1936.

Mrs. Fred Falconer,
Secretary.

Baker

THE Baker Chapter No. 2 of Ladies Auxiliary to the Oregon State Wool Growers met at the home of Mrs. Fred Phillips at Keating, Oregon, April 8, 1936, the president, Mrs. Phillips, presiding. A definite form of procedure for conducting meetings was adopted. A donation of five dollars was sent to the Red Cross Relief fund. It was decided that a bridge luncheon would be held at the Hotel Baker for

Material for this page should be sent to Mrs. Ella I. Livingston, National Press Correspondent, 1110 South 9th East, Salt Lake City, Utah.

the ladies who helped make our convention a success.

After the meeting adjourned, bridge was played, and guessing games were conducted by Mrs. Fred Widman.

Eight prizes were given.

Our chapter has 21 paid-up members, 18 of whom were present. We were also happy to have three new members and five visitors in attendance.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Ira Staggs, Keating, Oregon, May 6, 1936.

Mrs. Louis Osborn,
Secretary.

IDAHO

THE Idaho Falls Chapter of Ladies Auxiliary to the Idaho State Wool Growers enjoyed a beautifully arranged card party in April at the home of their president, Mrs. J. T. Edwards, the proceeds of which were turned over to the state fund.

Mrs. Edwards is very anxious to visit the ladies over the state, hoping to interest them in the work she is trying to do for the benefit of the organization.

The ladies of the Ula Chapter are planning parties to raise funds to assist their president in making these visits and we hope that it will be carried on throughout the state.

Mrs. J. C. Fowler,
Secretary.

UTAH Salt Lake

THE March and April meetings of the Salt Lake Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers were interesting ones.

March 9 the auxiliary held its meeting at the Union Building of the University of Utah, following a luncheon at the University cafeteria. Mrs. Arthur Beeley spoke to the members on "Handicraft on the Campus."

The April meeting was held at the Lion House, preceded by the annual breakfast. Mrs. R. H. Winder was in charge of arrangements. During the breakfast, Mrs. E. J. Kearns presented a gift to Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, retiring president, from the members of the auxiliary. Mrs. John D. Spencer, a daughter of Brigham Young, gave an interesting talk on the Lion House.

The auxiliary dedicated a tree in honor of Mrs. Carl S. Smart, the first president of the Salt Lake Auxiliary, at Mueller's Park in celebration of Arbor Day.

Mrs. Hyrum C. Erickson,
Secretary.

WASHINGTON

Yakima

MEMBERS of the Yakima Auxiliary were guests of the Northwest Livestock Production Credit Association at the home of Mrs. George McWhirter in Yakima at their April meeting. A one o'clock luncheon at tables gay with spring blossoms preceded the business meeting and program. Mrs. W. A. Roberts gave her report of the National Convention, which had not been given before as no meeting of the auxiliary was held during March. Reports of committee activities were given by Mrs. McWhirter, Mrs. Emil Roberts and Mrs. C. M. Longmire.

Mrs. McWhirter was assisted during the afternoon by Mrs. H. F. Roberts and Mrs. William Knox.

An invitation from the Goldendale group to a guest-day picnic at Rock Creek on May 7 was presented to the chapter.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16.

Mrs. Archie Prior.

Wool Substitutes: Their Real Significance to Growers

The Special Bradford (England) Correspondent of The Pastoral Review sets forth in this article some forceful reasons why wool will not be superseded by its so-called substitutes, "the creation of scientists." As a member of the Wool Fibre Research Committee of the Wool Industries Research Association, at Leeds, England, and a member of the Wool Statistics Advisory Committee of the Imperial Economic Committee, the writer undoubtedly speaks with an authority based on sound information.

The article is reprinted from The Pastoral Review published December 16, 1935.

THE writer can quite understand all wool growers being concerned about the creation of so-called substitutes, and the wide publicity given to these in the press has also caused apprehension in the minds of users. The latest stunt comes from Italy, where, according to "Agricoltura Fascista," excellent wool has already been produced from skim milk. The paper claims that one pound of wool can be made from one pound of milk, and the price is stated to compare favorably with that of ordinary wool. To claim that wool or anything approaching wool can be produced from milk is absurd in the extreme. Professor A. T. King, of Leeds University, said this week that he was completely sceptical of the Italian claims.

What is Staple Fiber?

The writer has before him the very latest creations of both Germany and artificial silk manufacturers in England, and he is in no wise impressed with their usability. Being a member of the Wool Fibre Research Committee of the Wool Industries Research Association, Torridon, Headingley, Leeds, and a member of the Wool Statistics Advisory Committee of the Imperial Economic Committee, the writer has inside information, and can assure every Australian wool grower that nothing is being produced at the moment to cause any concern.

Every fiber that has been made so far has for its foundation the same wood fiber from which artificial silk is made. In some cases the luster has been removed, but it is altogether inferior in comparison with the fleece of the sheep, and chemists in any part of the

world can work from January 1 to December 31, and will never be able to infuse into these substitutes the life, vitality and felting property of wool. These so-called substitutes can be used in connection with wool just the same as mungo, shoddy and cotton have been used for the past fifty years, but even the latter are much better than these substitutes, which are lifeless, weak in fiber, and possess much less spinning property than good mungo, shoddy or cotton.

Staple Fiber Rayon

As already said, the claims of Italian scientists that they can produce from milk a fiber imitating wool can be dismissed entirely, but what is of interest is the knowledge that Italy has been doing her best during the past week or two in England to counter economic sanctions in wool. In war times every effort possible is made to obtain wool for military clothing purposes. Yorkshire firms have been approached in this connection, and have received offers of prompt payment if only Italian buyers could devise some means of avoiding the machinery of the Anglo-Italian Payments Agreement. That agreement has behind it the force of law, but whether it would be put into operation today is doubtful.

British exports of wool and its products to Italy during the past nine months could have been much greater, but misgivings regarding the securing of payment within reasonable time led many Yorkshire firms to approach the Italian market with caution. Under the Anglo-Italian Payments Agreement Italy's commercial disbursements in this country are fully 21 weeks in arrears, and it cannot be said that the

wool trade is satisfied with the manner in which that agreement is operating.

As already indicated, staple fiber rayon is only a product of artificial silk. To use the definition of the Import Duties Committee, staple fiber is "artificial silk which, at the time of manufacture, is cut into short lengths mainly for the purpose of being subsequently spun into yarn, either by itself or in admixture with other fibers, such as wool or cotton." The question now arises, can any kind of fabrics be made solely from staple fiber? Fabrics are being made, but their tensile strength and wearing capacity is anything but good compared with fabrics made from wool; in fact, we should say that they are very poor and altogether unsatisfactory.

The question of price per pound of staple fiber is another matter of importance to those who want to use this article. We should say that it is about 11d. per pound, which is a considerable item of expenditure, and where employed it cannot be compared in the slightest with fabrics in which wool forms only a twenty-fifth part of the constituent blend.

One wonders what manufacturers are going to use staple fiber or, for that matter, any other raw material made from wood pulp, in place of other raw materials, unless it be for the purpose of blending to obtain a different effect in the manufactured fabric. The writer shares the view of the majority of practical manufacturers who want something more serviceable in character and general utility than these artificial fibers so far have proved. No doubt they have helped to some extent to counteract a big rise in wool, but in spite of that fact, the world's clip is disappearing every season, and it needs no war between Italy and Abyssinia to see both Merino and crossbred wool selling on a higher level than for some considerable time. Every Australian wool grower can rest assured that his product is not going to be superseded by the creation of any scientist. It is a scientific fact that life can only be imparted by life, and the absence of this feature in all artificial fibers renders them totally incapable of being real live competitors with wool.

The British Wool Program

SEVERAL years ago, the fall of 1931 to be exact, Mr. F. J. du Toit, then representing the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa, visited at different points in the United States on his way home from a pilgrimage to Australia and New Zealand in the interest of a world-wide publicity campaign for wool. Growers in South Africa at that time had had levied a tax of one shilling on each bale (250 to 300 pounds) of wool exported, the fund thus raised to be set aside for research and promotional work for wool. A sizable fund was reported as collected through the tax, but since then collections have been stopped, awaiting action and cooperation on the part of growers of Australia and New Zealand and support from the wool interests of England.

Now it seems that the cooperation and support is to materialize. Stockmen's papers from Australia and New Zealand indicate that both of those countries are now ready to act. A joint conference of the Graziers' Federal Council and of the Australian Wool Growers' Council held early this year resulted in a decision to ask the Commonwealth Government for legislation providing for an excise duty of not more than one shilling per bale of wool, which would mean an annual fund of about \$750,000 from Australia. But that, of course, would be the maximum, which probably would not be levied, as some criticism has already arisen against the size of the proposed duty. Another objection to the plan is that the government is to collect the tax, which might prove to be the "thin edge of the wedge for government interference."

New Zealand is reported as ready to raise her share of funds for the proposed program and South Africa, as indicated, is standing by. Support for the program is also being lined up among the manufacturing interests in England.

The new stimulus to the British wool campaign in Australia and New Zealand is largely the result of a talking-

tour made during the past months by Lord Barnby, head of Frances Willey & Co., Ltd., operators of large woolen mills in England and America. Lord Barnby recently crossed the United States, conferring with Secretary Wing of the California Wool Growers Association, Secretary Marshall of the National, E. C. Morse, director of Associated Wool Industries and others, on his way. At a meeting with the press in New York City, Lord Barnby was generous in his praise of the accomplishments of the Associated Wool Industries in wool promotion during the past year. The funds for the British wool program, he said, would be placed in the control of a non-political group in London, which would direct the expenditures, half of which will probably be made in research and the other half in direct promotion work.

The International's Album

GIVING in complete detail all of the events of the 1935 International Live Stock Exposition and Grain and Hay Show, the annual Review and Album of the Exposition is now off the press and available for distribution.

The book consists of 330 pages and carries illustrations of all champion winners in the cattle, horse, sheep, and swine departments of the last International as well as the photos of winning individuals and teams in the numerous contests participated in by college students and farm boys and girls. It is a valuable permanent history of this premier event of the annual show circuit.

Interesting general reviews of each breed competition, by well known live stock writers and show reviewers, are included, accompanied by lists of prize winners in each contest.

A limited number of the books have been printed and are obtainable at \$1.00 per copy, post paid, which is less than the production cost of each volume. Requests should be addressed to the Exposition office at the Chicago Stock Yards.

Fire Protection and Range Grass Improvement

IF YOU are interested in producing at a profit more and better stock feed, more than double the yield naturally produced, and extending the green feed season, which assures 75 per cent better fire protection, through expending 25 cents per acre, the following suggestions may be of some help to you by pointing out the reasons why results are procured by shallow cultivation.

The first question that arises is: Will it pay?

Figuring the actual cost of operating a tractor at from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per ten-hour day, pulling 30-feet of disk and that it will cover all the way from 60 to 100 or more acres during this run, we may place the average actual cost at 25 cents per acre. On steep hills it will be higher; on reasonably low hills 25 cents or less, and on level land as low as 10 cents per acre. Contrasted, especially on small acreage jobs, the cost would be necessarily greater. Understand, shallow cultivation, 1½-inches deep, is all that is required, with every other disk removed, the object being to break the surface soil and kill one-half the grass plants that have started after the first rain storm of the season.

Don't run away with the idea that dry work before the rain is O. K., unless you wish to recultivate after the feed is started, because the thinning out is your main objective, and dry work alone will not answer the purpose. The same principles involved are utilized and generally practiced by all ranchers, except range livestock producers. For instance, sugar beet growers spend several dollars per acre every year thinning their beets, as you know, by hand. They, like nature, plant much more seed than is necessary in order to produce tonnage, sugar content and save moisture, and whenever and wherever the stock rancher cultivates his range land, he will accomplish almost the same three results with natural grass, at much lower cost.

The reasons why cultivating and thinning increase both quality and quantity are obvious, but will stand repetition.

Cultivation helps through breaking the surface soil, allowing more rapid percolation of rain water, storing the moisture in the sub-soil and preventing run off that causes erosion—points you are all familiar with. Eliminating half

the plants reduces the use of moisture 50 per cent because 200 plants require twice as much moisture as the 100 you have allowed to remain. Another benefit may reasonably be listed through the guaranteed thrifty growth of the feed where the thinning process has taken place, especially if (as frequently happens in California) a month or more time elapses between



A \$10 A-Pound Lamb

THE Grand Champion Fat Lamb at the Ninth Annual Interstate Junior Livestock and Baby Beef Show (San Francisco, April 5-9, 1936) was sold at public auction to Swift and Company for the account of J. H. Lesser, Washington Market, Oakland, California, at the record price of \$10 a pound.

The lamb is shown here with Arthur McLean, the 4-H Club member of the Kern County High School at Bakersfield, California, who bred and fed the lamb. Young Mr. McLean borrowed money to finance his venture into the sheep business, but by raising this 65-pound lamb cleared enough to pay off his indebtedness and continue with his efforts to produce prize-winning lambs.

The picture is shown through the courtesy of the California Wool Grower.

rains. For in that time the surface moisture is used up, both by the plants and through evaporation. And perhaps hot weather, frost or adverse winds have caused abnormal evaporation, which has reduced the moisture to such an extent that plants suffer from drought where the stand is too thick.

It is especially interesting under these conditions, to notice cultivated areas showing steady thrifty growth, whereas uncultivated acreage suffers to a point where the ranchers remark, "grass is going back into the ground," and "when is it going to rain again," is a leading question. These periods of drought during the growing season are so frequent, in average years, that they may be classed as a general rule, and are recognized as being responsible for many short feed years, even when the total seasonal rainfall is normal, but poorly distributed.

Cultivation will invariably transform all such seasons from short to normal yields of feed and in favorable rainy seasons produce an additional tonnage that will justify the mowing and bunching of wild hay, to be utilized in finishing meat animals or furnishing milk stock, cows or goats, with sufficient succulent feed to produce milk, cheese or butter fat, or for range cows and ewes suckling calves and lambs. Don't lose sight of the fact that the increase in tonnage and quality of feed and the extension of the green feed season, on one tenth of your range, one year with another (eight years out of every ten) will supply enough more feed to guarantee producers finishing livestock on the ranch that are now sold half fat or for feeders.

Any individual grower who adopts the cultivation plan will benefit and whenever practiced collectively stabilization of the market will result, through better standardization of the general feed conditions, providing six months spread in which to market instead of the average 30 to 60 day period.

Fire breaks are also provided by shallow cultivation, as, in California, it prolongs the green feed season from two to six weeks, the length of the pe-

riod depending on weather conditions, and any stock rancher knows stock, preferring green to dry feed, will feed these cultivated strips and leave bare ground to act as a fire break. Because of the increase in tonnage of feed and the lengthening of the time it is green, the breaks are maintained at a profit.

If the aid of the P.W.A. could be secured to keep up fire breaks along the fence lines, great benefit would also result. A good deal can be accomplished in this respect by obtaining the cooperation of the business interests in the cities, and of ranchers themselves. In five days and nights at my instigation, the ranchers of San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Kern counties in California, signed a gentlemen's agreement to construct over 2000 miles of fire break on their ranches.

To offset the ill effects of drought on the range, to reduce fire hazards, and increase your profits with better and more green feed, every stockman should be willing to interest himself and others in shallow cultivation of range lands.

Frank C. Clark.

San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Meat vs. Fish in Railroad Dining Cars

RISING to a complaint that its dining cars were featuring fish to the detriment of meats, the Southern Pacific Company has furnished the following information regarding its purchases of meat and fish during the year 1935:

Total Purchases	Pounds
Meat and Fish.....	1,395,845
Fish	156,335
Lamb	220,912
Beef	506,562
All Other Meats and Poultry	512,036

Denial of any undue pushing of fish is based on these figures, by officials of the railroad company. They also claim that no effort has been made by them to increase the consumption of fish by selling it at low prices and state that their records show that the majority of travelers do not make use of the lower priced meals listed on their menus. For example a check for four months showed that 37.1 per cent of

the passengers purchased 80-cent luncheons, while the other 62.9 per cent ordered meals in the higher price ranges, and for dinner 28.8 per cent took the 80-cent meal and 71.2 per cent the more expensive. All of which indicates that the majority of travelers purchase the more expensive meals.

In their support, the company's officials also cite the fact that during 1935 they bought their meat at an average price of 21 cents a pound as against 14 cents, the average price per pound of fish, which enabled them to furnish the fish at a lower price to their patrons.

Idaho Association Posts Reward for Information on Sheep and Wool Thieves

THE Idaho Wool Growers Association is rendering a special service to its members this year in a drive against the stealing of sheep, pelts and wool. A thousand metal signs have been distributed to its members, offering a reward of \$100 for "information supplied leading to the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of thieves stealing sheep, pelts or wool owned by any member in good standing." The reward is not payable to the owner of the property stolen or to any employee or officer of the state association.

By putting the bounty on the thieves and blocking to some extent at least their disposal of stolen property, the Idaho Association feels certain its drive will result in a large reduction in the number of thefts.

The State Law Enforcement Department and a number of truck checking stations are cooperating with the wool growers' association in the apprehension of sheep or wool thieves.

Sheepmen wishing signs to post on their property can secure them from the Idaho Wool Growers Association at Boise, by the payment of their dues, while members with their current dues paid can secure additional signs by notifying the association of the number wanted.

Lamb Market Conditions and Prices

Chicago

PARTING company with other branches of the livestock market, lamb trade ran into a boom late in April. Scarcity was the sole influence.

California lambs were late, winter fed stock in the corn belt practically disappeared, and the residue of the old crop of fed lambs shorn and in the fleece changed hands at wholly unexpected prices. The inflated period was brief, prices crashing overnight when feeders loaded to take advantage of the opportunity to bag big money. It was a spectacular climax to a market that had been devoid of feature for weeks.

At the pinnacle good to choice woolled lambs sold in Chicago at \$12.65 @12.85; shorn stock at \$10.75@11. Eastern shippers were mainly responsible, but in a strenuous effort to get numbers, packers participated, the \$12.85 purchase on April 29 being credited to a packer whose support of the local market has been conspicuous all winter. Within a week prices advanced \$1.50 to \$1.75 per hundred; in a single day the reaction was almost \$1 per hundred. On April 29 the top early in the day was \$12.85, later in the session, \$12.25 was the limit and on the last day of the month nothing in the fleece passed \$12. Shorn lambs sold at \$10.75@11, on the high spot.

While the fat lamb market was advancing \$1.50 per hundred, cattle lost 50 to 75 cents and hogs practically the same amount. For a prolonged period, top lambs, top hogs and top cattle held around \$11 per hundred; when the break came in cattle, the top declined to \$9.75; the bear movement in hogs coincidentally put that top down to \$10.50. But in beef cooler replacement killers were able to buy a large percentage of fat steers anywhere from \$8 to \$9.50; hog droves costing around \$10.50 meanwhile. Obviously both lambs and hogs were scarce, otherwise the prices would have been im-

possible; beef supply meanwhile showed substantial increase.

When live mutton trade went into April, it was evident that reserve stocks had been depleted to a point where at least a mild pyrotechnical display was inevitable. The advance was strenuously resisted until the middle of the month when a scramble for numbers loomed up. Killers carrying on buying operations in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin conducted a series of buying skirmishes to discover that the crop of lambs put in last fall had all but disappeared, throwing the purchasing strain on stock concentrated in feeding areas west of the Missouri River, mainly Colorado and Nebraska, where supply had gradually worked into such strong hands that dislodgment was possible only by skyrocketing prices. The sharp break when the pinnacle had been reached was the logical sequence of an effort to grab a fat purse.

Early in April \$10.65 was the limit on choice lambs, packers making the bulk of their purchases at \$10@10.35. A week later the top had crossed the \$11 line, \$10.35@10.85 taking the bulk, and by April 18, average packer cost was well above \$11, the top had reached \$11.60 and the bulk of shorn lambs sold in the \$11 to \$11.40 range. On April 25 the top had reached \$11.75 and the bulk sold between that figure and \$11.50, starting the display of fireworks that culminated in the \$12.50@12.85 trade during the final period.

Shorn lambs participated in the advance although the spread between the two classes was practically \$2 per hundred most of the month. When the rise began shorn lambs were on an \$8.85@9.15 basis, reaching \$10.50@11 at the high spot. On the subsequent reaction shorn lambs showed practically the same decline as woolled stock, selling down to \$10.

Contrasted with the corresponding period in recent years the figures are interesting, showing substantial appre-

ciation both in sheep and lambs. Comparisons follow:

	SHEEP		LAMBS	
	Top	Bulk	Top	Bulk
1936	\$6.50	\$5.25@6.25	\$12.85	\$12.00@12.75
1935	5.25	3.00@5.00	8.50	7.75@ 8.00
1934	5.50	4.00@5.25	9.90	9.50@ 9.85
1933	3.00	1.75@2.75	6.10	5.35@ 6.00
1932	2.25	1.00@2.00	6.90	5.75@ 6.50
1931	3.50	2.50@3.50	9.85	7.75@ 9.60

The late April advance put the whole market at the highest level since June, 1930; shorn stock reaching the highest point since May, 1929, at \$11.

Dressed trade followed rather than accompanied the upturn in livestock. Choice carcass lambs advanced to \$22 in Chicago; \$23 at New York, compared with \$16 and \$16.50 at the corresponding time last year. Early in April medium to choice lamb carcasses wholesaled at \$16 to \$19 in Chicago; 50 cents more per hundred in New York, but the rapid upturn checked distribution. The difference in wool was in killers' favor, however, other by-product showing similar appreciation compared with the corresponding period of 1935. Early in May \$15.50 @17 bought the bulk of lamb carcasses on the Chicago wholesale market; at the end of the month it was a \$17.50 to \$19.50 trade. Mutton carcasses also sold to advantage, largely at \$10 to \$12 per hundred.

Few spring lambs reported at any market during April. At Chicago and elsewhere \$14 to \$18 was paid during the week previous to Easter, but this was a specialty trade of unimportant volume. A few California spring lambs reached Chicago just before the boom in old croppers, to sell at \$10 to \$13, but they lacked condition.

By this time the residue of Colorado's winter fed crop has been cashed with profitable results. Corn belt feeders got in early this year, and did not get the final rise, although they had a highly profitable season. Feed was cheap, excellent fall gains were made and added cost of gains during the

February cold snap was compensated by the subsequent rise in price. Most of the winter period slaughter was of practically the same volume as last year and but for the fact that acute scarcity developed in April winter poundage would have been somewhat in excess of 1935. One reason why killers went short was that the corn belt cleaned up early, putting the market in control of western feeders. Interior Iowa packers were under the necessity of going to western markets for a supply unusually early, their competition putting life into the trade.

Truckers engaged in gathering fat lambs in the farming areas were practically out of business so far as this class of stock was concerned during April. When farmer feeders were able to realize \$10 to \$11 per hundred, they took the short route to the money. Fewer contract lambs went into the corn belt last fall; they were in competent hands and both interests made money. The moral is that putting out western lambs with irresponsible, amateur feeders is a desperate gamble if not insuring certain loss.

Lucrative profits have been bagged by Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana feeders this season, which will naturally develop keen interest in western range stock next fall. However, there will be no broad inquiry until September. Corn acreage will be large and that crop is going into a well prepared seed bed with a prospect of at least a normal yield. Stock cattle are sufficiently high to divert attention to lambs, so that a broad demand is probable. The soil erosion program, if made effective over any considerable acreage, should create many pastures whereon lambs could make cheap gains.

Substantial reduction of the supply of fat lambs from California this spring is expected, as weather conditions have been unfavorable, making a long feeder end which has gone into the hands of commercial feeders.

Tennessee and Kentucky will be somewhat short of their usual spring lamb crop. Tennessee will begin loading in May, followed by Kentucky 30 days later. Bulk of this Middle South crop will go directly east for slaughter, not figuring in market receipts.

Killers have not discriminated severely against heavy lambs, 95 to 105 pounds this season, which is additional proof that the product is moving promptly into distributive channels. Even in extreme cases the penalty compared with woolskins did not exceed 25 cents per hundred; much of the time it disappeared. Heavy lamb legs, formerly a serious merchandising problem, are now reduced in bulk by a cutting plan that eliminates much of the objection.

Scarcity of aged stock has maintained a healthy fat ewe market, woolled ewes selling largely at \$4@6 per hundred. Farmers are holding ewes for foundation flocks, and feeders put few at the bunkers last fall. Prices merely indicate restricted volume.

Fewer lambs were fed at the huge barns adjacent to the markets during the past winter than ever before in the history of the business. As a supply factor, these plants have ceased to exert an influence. Some of them have been converted into cattle feeding plants.

The high pinnacle attained by live mutton prices late in April should be discounted. That the trade is in a temporary supply gap is evident, but it is a big country and high prices always exert a magnetic influence. Texas is not considered a factor and California cannot repeat last year's performance, although the corn belt is maturing a lamb crop that will eventually exert an influence on prices. A flock of breeding ewes is a popular farm possession, especially in view of hog scarcity, and the average farmer once confident of himself in the sphere of lamb production is disposed to expand. But for pronounced scarcity of breeding stock due to the 1934 drought, farm flocks east of the Missouri River would have expanded substantially.

J. E. Poole.

Omaha

SHEEP and lamb prices scored sensational upturns during the month of April, reaching new high levels in most classes since 1929. Quotations on fat lambs, which made up the bulk of the arrivals throughout the month,

climbed to \$12.50, the highest point since 1930. The total advance in this division at the peak period was more than \$2.00 over the top at the close of March, but the closing days witnessed a sharp drop, amounting to 75 cents or more.

Receipts at Omaha dropped to the lightest April volume since 1910. Arrivals for the month stood at 118,842 head, compared with 157,258 last year and 313,772 in 1930 when supplies were the largest for any April in the history of the yards.

Trade was generally healthy on good demand for lambs on both local and shipping account. Prices on fed woolskins advanced more or less steadily from \$10.15, high figure on the opening day of the month, to \$12.50 paid on the 28th for the highest on woolies since June, 1930. It was also 50 per cent above the April, 1935, top of \$8.60.

Shorn lambs followed similar trends. Supplies were limited at the beginning but became more numerous at the close. Best lambs in this division reached \$10.65 at the high mark, but also suffered drastic reductions before the month ended.

Rains in California after the early initial shipment tended to hold back supplies from the coast state until the latter days of April. Most of the late arrivals went to feeders at \$8.25@10.00. Grass fat lambs sold to \$11.90.

Offerings of native springers were limited, with the bulk moving at \$10.75 @12.50, the latter figure the high for the month.

Stock for shearing purposes shared in the general upturn with the demand centered mostly on good fleshy lambs. As these were generally good enough to command attention from killing interests, prices fluctuated closely with the fat lamb market. High for the month was \$11.65, paid for one load carrying considerable fat. Thin lambs met with indifferent demand from start to finish.

Mature stock was offered only in small bunches. Woolled ewes were seasonally scarce but the demand for the few arrivals pushed prices to \$6.75 for the highest figure since January, 1930, on the Omaha market. Shorn

ewes were somewhat more numerous, especially during the closing days of the month. This kind also attained a new high for recent years, selling at \$6.00 and down.

Lester H. Hartwig.

St. Joseph

WHILE receipts for the month of April were liberal, they were not up to last month and the same month a year ago. The past month's total was 121,440 compared with 138,294 in March and 148,797 in April a year ago. All of the feeding districts were represented during the month, a total of 57,472 coming from Nebraska feedlots, 26,365 from Colorado, and 6,016 from Wyoming. There was also included about 7,500 spring lambs from Arizona and California.

The market for fed lambs opened on a strong basis, and as the month advanced prices began to climb until the 28th, when the top reach \$12.50, the highest since June 7, 1930, but on the last two days of the month there was a 75-cent to \$1.00 break, which put the closing top at \$11.75, or around \$1.65 higher than a month ago. Clips sold at \$9.50 on the extreme close, which was \$1.50 higher for the month. Native spring lambs were very scarce, selling at \$10.50 early in the month, \$12.25 at the high time, and \$11.60 on the close. Californias and Arizonas sold \$10.65@12.25, with the closing top quoted around \$11.60. Aged sheep also scored a good advance, ewes closing around \$1.00 up, old wethers showing about the same gain, while yearlings and two-years-olds are about \$1.75 higher. At the high time woolled ewes reached \$7.00 and clips \$6.15, with closing quotations around \$6.75 and \$6.00, respectively. Old wethers were quoted up to \$7.75 on the close, two-year-olds \$9.75 and yearlings \$10.75.

H. H. Madden.

Denver

THE lamb market was active at Denver during the month of April. Prices advanced from \$1.50 to \$2 on fed lambs, while spring lambs went up

\$1 to \$1.25. Yearlings advanced \$1 to \$1.50 and ewes went up 50 to 75 cents.

Fed lambs went up to the high point in six years, when, towards the end of the month the best sold at \$12.50 freight paid at Denver. This price was within 35 cents of the extreme high point at Chicago. Best fed lambs were selling from \$10 to \$10.15 early in April, while at the close a good to choice grade was moving to the scales at \$12 to \$12.50.

California spring lambs sold at \$10.10 to \$10.75 early in April. Near the close of the month large numbers of Californias were coming to Denver, and they were selling readily at \$11 to \$11.25, with the plainer kinds at \$10.40 to \$10.90. Early in the closing week of the month best California spring lambs sold up to \$12.25 memo. Odd native spring lambs sold during the closing week of the month at \$10.75 to \$11.50.

Large numbers of California spring lambs are now coming to the Denver market. The demand has been good at this market and they have been moving at prices so attractive as to bring them in. During the month of April, 68,000 California lambs reached the Denver market. This is the largest number ever received at this market in April from California, the previous record April shipments from the coast state being 47,000 head in April, 1934. California lamb producers found Denver a good place to market their lambs during April.

Numerous loads of fed shorn lambs appeared at Denver late in the month. The price reached \$10.25 freight paid and \$9.75 flat late in the month, whereas they were bringing \$8.50 freight paid early in April.

Woolled ewes were rather scarce during the month. The demand was very good and the few found a ready outlet, prices late in the month ranging up to \$6.50 with others at \$5.75 to \$6.25. California shorn ewes made \$5.25 late in the month.

Northern Colorado marketed 153,000 head of sheep and lambs at Denver during the month of April this year as compared to 139,000 head marketed here by feeders of northern Colorado in April, 1935.

Total receipts of sheep and lambs at Denver during the month were 239,000 head, as against 208,000 head received at this market in April, 1935. In addition to the larger receipts from Colorado and California, there was a scattering of sheep and lambs received from Nebraska, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona.

W. N. Fulton.

Kansas City

AFTER recording an advance of 75 cents in the first three weeks in April the lamb market put on a real show in the last week of the month, when, in a four-day period, prices rose about \$1.50 and then broke 75 cents in two days. The "man on the flying trapeze" did not have a look-in with the price stunts of the last six days. The upswing carried quotations into the highest position in six years and the back swing left values 75 cents above the end of the third week and \$1.60 above the March close. At the extreme high point a \$2.25 gain was registered over the March close, and April made the highest average prices of any month since 1930.

March closed with \$10.15 top on woolled lambs and \$11 on new crop lambs. In the next two weeks woolled lambs sold up to \$11.15 and springs up to \$11.50. There was a slight setback in the next week when on the 21st, \$10.90 was paid for fed lambs and \$10.85 for springs. There was a slight rise the next two days and then on the 27th and 28th the big push upward started. There have been very few former occasions that the buying side was forced to perform to the complete satisfaction of the producers as they did in the two days. However, in the following two days there was an evening-up break that to some degree compensated the buying side, but elevated prices for the entire period made the average stand as the high record in recent years. On the close both winter fed lambs and new crop lambs were quoted up to \$11.75.

While shorn lambs encountered a substantial advance, because of the limited supply, they were of secondary consideration in the general market alignment. Late in March they sold at

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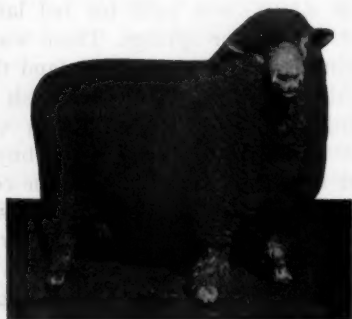
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\$7.75 to \$8.25. At the high point in April they brought up to \$10.50, and closed the month around \$10, making a slightly larger net gain than woolled lambs, but remaining at more than the usual price margin under woolled lambs. Because of the large price margins that have existed between the two classes, fewer winter fed lambs have been shorn, before marketing, than in a number of years past. Broken and stringy fleeces and excessive weights were the main factors for shearing. In many instances fleece conditions were ignored to a good return in favor of the selling side. Practically the entire wool yield of winter fed lambs is finding its way into wool markets via the packing houses instead of being gathered at feed-in-transit yards.

It was a mixed situation that caused the April advance. Early in the month it became evident that the crop of winter fed lambs would be marketed before the native and California new crop lambs would move in volume. As the month advanced California reports indicated that the per cent that would be fat enough for killers would not be large. In central states cold wet weather in some sections and cold dry weather and lack of feed in other sections retarded lamb development. Arizona and southern California kept supplies moving in even volume with the bulk of them consigned to Kansas City where they met a strong demand from both local killers and shippers. The top price scored on Arizona-California new crop lambs was \$12.35, the highest for new crop lambs from those states since April, 1930, when \$12.50 was the peak.

Thus far, new crop lambs have returned producers highly satisfactory profits, but winter lamb feeders have not fared uniformly well. Excluding April and December and January, fat lambs did not return a profit. Up to the close of January the short feed and fairly good prices produced a profit. In April high prices made the profit. To sum up the season, it is evident that more fed lambs failed to return a net profit than those that made a reasonably good profit. Among the very favorable factors were that death losses were small and that weights were

not discounted severely. In April more fed lambs weighed 95 to 100 pounds than were under those weights and 102 to 110-pound lambs were not unusual. Lambs went into feed lots last fall carrying more than normal weight, but a sustained market on weight afforded about the normal tonnage feeding margin. Some feeders advanced the theory that feed lot losses were small because lambs went into feed lots at heavier than normal weight. Probably it would be better to place the credit not so much on the weight as the vigorous condition of the feeding lambs.

Ewes sold up to \$6.50 and yearlings up to \$10.25, both new high levels for the year. However, the market eased off about 50 cents from the peak before the close. The total supply of mutton sheep for the month was small and the trade indicated that when lamb prices get up to a good level, the outlet for mature mutton enlarges materially on the basis of cut-cost proposition on the part of the consumer.

There was not much opportunity for feeders to get any material number of lambs. In some cases shearers operated, but they had small chance to margin woolskins against shearing and a late marketing date. When new crop lambs begin to move in volume the feeder will be in evidence.

April receipts were 128,060, compared with 219,765 in the same month last year, a decrease of 91,705. Arrivals from Colorado, Nebraska and Arizona showed an increase, but Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, which had large supplies of wheat field lambs last year, uncovered more than a 100,000 decrease last month. Receipts in the four months this year were 460,065 or 106,275 less than in the same period 1935.

C. M. Pipkin.

Ogden

THE California spring lamb movement began to show increased activity at Ogden with four-day receipts of 33,600 springers from that state during April 29, 30, and May 1 and 2, representing 233 decks.

Total receipts of spring lambs up to May 2 were 129,328, of which 104,656 were received during April. Last

year at this time receipts were 135,151, or 5,823 ahead of this year's figures. Notwithstanding poor feeding conditions during the first part of the year which resulted in a late shipping season, shipments have almost caught up with those of the previous year when the growing season was more favorable. According to early estimates sheep numbers increased somewhat in California during the year 1935, with a lamb production perhaps greater than ever before. It is believed that from now on the lamb movement will be regular and in increased numbers.

As a result of feeding conditions during February and March, the lambs are considerably lighter than average, many of them weighing from 58 to 62 pounds, necessitating further feeding before being marketed. Most all of these lighter shipments have been coming from San Joaquin Valley where, because of shortage of feed, the movement has been forced, resulting in light lambs, many of which will be fed further on eastern feed lots. Farther north in the Sacramento Valley conditions have been more favorable, with the consequent result of a greater amount of feed, so that lambs moving out of this section should carry a fatter end, although movement has been retarded somewhat.

Sales on the average show an increase of about \$2 per hundredweight over the prices paid last spring. The first sale made during last year's season was on a load of 82-pound lambs which brought \$8.50, while this spring's initial sale was for \$10.40, for some 72-pound springers. Later sales represented an even greater increase over prices being paid last year.

The first Idaho spring lambs of the season were received at the Ogden market on Friday, April 24, selling at \$11.25 per hundredweight. The first carlot last spring was not received until about the middle of the month of May. The \$11.25 price paid for the first lot of Idaho woolies this year was exactly \$2.50 over that paid last spring. This year's first shipment was from the Burley, Idaho, district and weighed 85 pounds, being of very good quality. The past few weeks of good weather have brought an abundance of good

grass and sheepmen report stock coming along in good shape. Continuance of this kind of weather will insure a splendid quality of early lambs equal to prior years. It is anticipated that some scattered shipments will start to move in about the first two weeks of June, increasing gradually until August, and the heaviest flow should occur during the last two weeks of that month.

D. F. Estes.

"Fall Lamb"

I HAVE observed certain retail butchers putting over the block what they call "Fall Lamb," which is nothing more or less than Old Ewe. The term, therefore, is deceptive and misleading to the consuming public and works an injustice against the producers and feeders of Spring Lamb, which is delicious, appetizing and of the highest food value—an article any retail butcher can be proud to put over the block.

A lot of money has been spent in an effort to encourage the consuming public to eat lamb, and the retailers using the term "Fall Lamb," to sell Old Ewe meat are undermining all these efforts by deceiving the public into believing that they are getting lamb at an old ewe price. For when they get the "lamb" home, it is tough and unsatisfactory, and naturally they will not only buy some other kind of meat themselves, but tell their neighbors of their experience with the "lamb."

I have no objection to any retailer selling Old Ewe, but I want it go out to the public as such.

Two years ago I visited a public market in Denver and saw there a leg of Fall Lamb, at 6 cents a pound. It was anything but attractive. I asked the proprietor what he meant by Fall Lamb, and he said it was a sheep over one year old, but finally admitted it was Old Ewe, and justified himself by saying that there was a certain class of customers who could not afford Spring Lamb and wanted a cheaper article.

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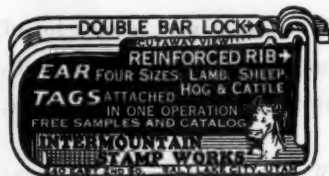
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Frank Brown, President Carlton, Oregon

I feel that it is the duty of every
sheep raiser or lamb feeder to report
instances of this kind to their state
or national associations, for anyone
who tries to deceive the public in this
way should be prosecuted for fraud.
Meeker, Colo. H. P. Ottosen.

**Department of Agricul-
ture Creates New Division
of Animal Nutrition**

A NEW research unit, to be known
as the Animal Nutrition Division,
is announced by the Bureau of Animal
Industry of the Department of Agri-
culture, effective May 1. Dr. Paul E.
Howe, who has since 1924 been senior
biochemist in charge of nutrition in-
vestigations in the Bureau's Animal
Husbandry Division, has been named
chief of the new division.

The reorganization has been made to
increase the emphasis on research deal-
ing with fundamental problems of feed-
ing and nutrition of farm animals. For
the most part the new division will use
existing personnel and research facili-
ties, plus enlarged new laboratory space
and equipment made available by the
Department's current building program
at the National Agricultural Research
Center, Beltsville, Md.

Dr. Howe plans to organize the work
of the new division into four principal
sections: One devoted to biological
studies of nutritional problems with
laboratory animals; another, to the
biochemistry and physiology of diges-
tion; a third to the nutritive require-
ments of cattle, sheep, swine, goats,
horses, and dogs, and general studies
of the digestibility of feeds; and the
fourth to poultry nutrition.

Dr. Howe, in addition to heading this
new division in the Bureau, has been
named an assistant chief of Bureau. He
has had a broad background of experi-
ence in biochemistry and in various
lines of study in both animal and hu-
man nutrition.

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 12)

We all know the sheep industry is the best industry in the West. When the sheepman can make money, he pays it out for his expenses and it benefits labor; it helps the farmer, it helps the stores. If our government leaders would do all they could to help the sheepman get on his feet, it would help to bring back prosperity.

I am located at present on the west side of the Cascades. This is a timbered country with small ranches of dairy cattle, chickens and berries. We have green grass here the year round. Some farmers have a few sheep. I think in time, with a little more experimenting with sheep in the cutover and burntover land here, that sheep would do well on a small scale, as there is a lot of green brush that sheep would thrive on, as well as the abundance of nice grass where it has a chance to grow. Where I am located, farms average from 5 to 20 acres. Forty acres is a big place here. We raise berries, chickens, and rabbits. Where the timber is cleared, the ground is heavily sodded with grass.

J. N. Gosset.

Ellensburg

Weather and feed conditions on ranges in this section of the country since April 1 have been poor and unseasonable. We had an exceedingly dry March and a very dry April up to within the last week or ten days. With the rain, the ranges are now as good as they have been all spring (May 1). Previous to this period, the ranges were dry and dead, having had no opportunity to get growth because of the severe winter and such a short growing period last fall.

Last April and the year before were vastly different than this year. With the rains, the grass has been coming fast, but previous to the last week or so of April it was beginning to turn brown and curl from drought and frost. Prospects for summer ranges look good, with considerable snow in the mountains.

Death losses for the winter were excessive, both in the dry sheep and

A SHEEP SPREAD

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4700 acres of deeded land, 1200 acres of hay land, 3800 acres of State Leased Land. Five streams and numerous springs furnish water galore for this project. In addition 5000 ewes, permanent reserve right for 5000 head, 15 head milch cows, 20 head saddle horses and saddles and complete pack outfit. Everything goes with the place.

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C. W. MULHALL

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lambling ewes. Generally speaking, it was a hard winter on sheep. Lambing in this section will be at least 20 or 25 per cent less than last year.

Up to date, there has been no buying of 1936 wools to amount to anything. One or two sales at 26 cents a pound made last week, and one contract of 28 cents a pound a couple of months ago, are about the only deals that have attracted any attention. On the whole, the wools are going to be of lighter shrinkage. The sales mentioned were on wools of high quarters and three-eighths. Yearlings are selling for more money than they brought last year, and supplies are slightly higher.

The cost of running sheep this year was more than double that of last year. The cost of lambs for the 1936 crop will be much higher than that of 1935, on account of such adverse weather conditions, which in turn caused long feeding. Their cost was also increased by the fact that white scours hit many, with heavy losses.

Hal Holmes.

OREGON

The first week was cold and backward, with rain in the west and snow in the east; later temperatures were much higher and more favorable, though there was no rain until the last week, which was only light to moderate as a rule. This was very favorable, however, to pastures and ranges, which made rapid growth. As forage was becoming scarce locally, this is a very favorable circumstance, and livestock are now gaining generally. Goat shearing was completed locally, and sheep shearing is well advanced.

Paisley

The first week or ten days in April weather and feed conditions were bad, but since then they have been very good. We have had a little more moisture this year (April 29). At this writing, the feed is good on my range.

This winter's death losses are about the same. In lambing done so far, the yield has been about 100 per cent. Wools with about a 65 per cent

shrinkage have been contracted from 24 to 25 cents.

Supplies are higher in price this year. I think the cost of producing lambs and wool will be greater this year.

Coyotes are very much more numerous than they were last year. Most sheepmen here would like a national bounty.

C. E. Campbell.

Albany

Grass is growing well here and the weather is warm, April 29. Feed prospects are good for spring, and for summer also if we have a few rains coming along.

Death losses were heavier than usual. Lambing has been about the same. Wools this year have been contracted at 30 cents.

I think our cost of production will be less this year.

In our locality, coyotes are seldom heard of.

L. E. Carter.

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This protective comb is used exclusively in these plants. They include the largest in the West.

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WESTERN OFFICE:
224 S. W. Temple Street
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CALIFORNIA

The first week was cold, with light precipitation, the rest of the month being abnormally warm, with little or no precipitation of consequence in most sections, most of it being over the northern portion. As a rule, however, there has been plenty of forage and livestock are mostly in good to excellent condition.

Ukiah

Conditions of weather and feed are much better than normal. Prospects are good, as we have had good rains for feed on spring and summer ranges this month.

We had a very mild winter, and our death loss was smaller. One continued rain storm in February caused quite a loss of lambs. I think we will have about a 70 per cent lamb crop.

Fine and fine medium wools with an average shrinkage of 58 per cent have been contracted for 30 cents.

The cost of sheep and camp supplies is slightly more than last year, but taxes are lower. I think production cost will remain about the same.

There are more coyotes in some localities, fewer in others. More of them were caught this year as more men were in the field.

Guy Redwine.

Oakdale

Our weather and feed conditions have been very good this month, and spring and summer feed prospects are better than normal (April 24).

My death loss was less than one half of one per cent this year.

From 25 to 30 cents has been the contract price of 1936 wools, having about a 54 per cent shrinkage.

Due to government trappers, we have fewer coyotes this year.

Vernon A. Rodden.

NEVADA

Unusually mild temperatures prevailed after the first week and grass and other forage plants made rapid growth. However, precipitation was generally below normal, and the land will soon be in need of moisture. Sheep shearing and lambing are under way with fine weather. Cattle and sheep

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are in good condition as a rule, and are doing well with plenty of feed for the present.

Elko

Conditions on the range have been very favorable since April.

Our winter loss was about normal, but spring losses are somewhat heavier.

Some 1936 wools have been contracted from 25 to 27½ cents.

Sheep and camp supplies are somewhat higher than last year. I think the cost of production will be higher than it was last year.

Coyotes are very numerous and destructive here.

I consider your weather map very interesting information.

J. A. McBride.

UTAH

Temperatures were well above normal after the first week, and precipitation was generally deficient. The growth of grass and browse was rapid enough, but not until the end of the month was there enough to subsist livestock without extra feed. Cattle and sheep remained in fairly good shape, and shearing and early lambing progressed with favorable weather. Sheep have started toward the higher ranges generally, and cattle have been turned onto new ranges or pastures. A very few sheep losses occurred the first week due to the cold snap.

Yost

This month's weather and feed conditions have not been very good. Feed has been slow in coming, as the fore part of April was cold. The low range is poor (April 27), nearly all killed out by the last year's drought. Prospects for feed on the summer range are good. There is more snow in the hills and the feed is coming along fine.

Our death loss has been much larger this spring. In lambing done so far, the number of lambs saved is about 90 per cent of that of other years.

From 27 to 30 cents has been paid for wools contracted this year. These were mostly half blood.

Camp and sheep supplies are higher this year. The cost of producing lambs

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and wool will be greater this year because of heavy feeding.

Coyotes have been more numerous, but we have a trapper at work now, and he is getting results.

D. Chester Loveland.

Laketown

Range feeding has been impossible here due to snow (April 24). However, sheep in this territory must always be fed throughout the winter months, and conditions generally are better because of more snow. A smaller number of range sheep are getting feed this winter. Alfalfa hay in the stack is priced at \$8.00.

The number of ewes bred to lamb was somewhat less than last year's. Approximately the same number of ewe lambs were kept over last fall for breeding purposes. The average age of the ewe flock is about the same.

We have more coyotes than we had last year.

Alfred Kearl.

COLORADO

Cold weather the first week or so held the snow cover longer than usual in some western valleys; but warmer weather subsequently was favorable for livestock. Moisture has been quite inadequate over the southeastern portion, and limited parts of the northeastern portion. Livestock are generally in fair to good condition, and the lambing season is starting in the south with favorable weather; the western desert range is already becoming dry. Heavy shipments of sheep have been made from the southern and southeastern portions.

Saguache

Weather is good here, but we do not use the range in April. The first half of April was pretty cold, but the last half was nicer than usual. Feed on the spring range is just starting, April 29, and prospects for summer range feed are fair.

Our death loss was slight this winter. Lambing was good as we had better sheep in good shape, and good weather. Very few sheep are being sold. Production cost should be less as feed is cheaper.

(Continued on page 36)

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● Statements are often made about the packing industry which are not based on well-considered facts. One sometimes hears it said that livestock prices are determined by the packers. As a matter of fact, this is far from true. To the packer a hog is so much ham, bacon, lard, pork chops, etc., on the hoof. Before he can set a price on the hog he has to know what these products will sell for on the wholesale market. He must then buy the hog at a price that will allow for his processing costs, distributing costs, and taxes. What the packer can pay for livestock is determined largely by just one thing—what the housewife will pay for meat.

The problems of the packer and the farmer are intimately related. Armour and Company does everything it can to be of service to the raiser of livestock. We like to see the producer get good prices, for that means greater prosperity for him, and for us, too.

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"Hello, Pittsburgh... Swift refrigerator cars bound for Jersey City, New York and Boston from the West... switched to the flooded cities... six are coming to you..."

"... Red Cross needs 50,000 pounds at Johnstown... militia will help deliver... O. K., they'll have it today... Cleveland started three trucks to you... Detroit three more..."

"... the state will furnish police escort clear across... all right, we'll start the trucks from Chicago... yes, they'll carry 120,000 pounds... fresh beef and pork, smoked meats, poultry, butter, eggs, cheese..."

"All plants have loaded cars on the way... More than a million pounds for Pennsylvania..."

Typical were these bits of long distance conversations of March 18 last, between Swift managers while thousands of destitute victims



shivered in the cold, or huddled in relief shelters in Western Pennsylvania.

Through all this atmosphere of tragedy, the nationwide distributive system of Swift & Company was mobilizing food from the farms of America.

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Swift & Company

Over a period of years, Swift & Company's net profits from all sources have averaged only a fraction of a cent per pound.

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 33)

There is not much difference in the number of coyotes.

The worst thing we have had to contend with is the W.P.A., as they have made it hard for us to get help. Then, to make it worse, Governor Johnson is trying to keep us from getting help from New Mexico, as he is trying to stop them at the state line.

William Hagen.

NEW MEXICO

Cold, stormy weather the first week caused some light losses of livestock; but much warmer weather thereafter was very favorable everywhere. However, it has been much too dry everywhere, and general rains are needed, especially on the dry farming lands and the lower ranges. Livestock, however, are mostly in fair to good condition, some being poor in the south, especially the southwest. Alfalfa is making rapid growth, where water is ample.

Cerro

Range weather and feed conditions have been good this month. The spring is a little later than usual, but the grass is coming fast now (April 27). Spring feed looks about average, and summer feed on the range looks as if it will be a little better than average.

We had about a 2 per cent smaller death loss this winter. In lambing, about 2 per cent more lambs were saved per 100 ewes.

Wools having about 65 per cent shrinkage have been contracted at 27 cents.

Camp supplies cost about the same as last year, but the cost of producing lambs and wool will be a little more this year.

We have more coyotes now than we had one year ago.

E. L. Cater.

ARIZONA

This was a rather unfavorable month on the livestock ranges of the state, as there has been very little rain of the kind needed for soaking the land. Moreover, while the first week was unfavorably cold, the rest of the month

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was exceptionally warm, being unfavorable for forage growth. It is the spring season, however, and there is plenty of feed for livestock, and animals generally have done well.

Prescott

Feed and weather conditions have been fair on the range since April 1, and a little better than the previous two or three years.

Spring range feed (April 30) is very good. If we get rain soon, the summer feed should be good also.

Our death losses were not so heavy this winter and we saved more lambs this spring than we did last.

Supplies are a little higher in price this year, but the cost of production should remain about the same.

Coyotes are more numerous than they were last year.

Alvin Stuckey.

Glendale

In the low desert range, the feed dried up early and never was high enough to be good. In higher altitudes, the late rains helped to make fairly good feed for the trail north. The winter feed in the Salt River Valley was cheap and plentiful, and sheep left the valley in good condition. The death loss this winter was about average. Our lamb crop averaged over 100 per cent.

Supplies are about 20 per cent higher than last year and the cost of producing lambs and wool this year will be greater.

Max Rothpletz.

WESTERN TEXAS

The upper panhandle section has been comparatively cool, and exceptionally dry through the month, conditions being highly unfavorable for ranges and livestock. Over the far western counties of the state, conditions have been appreciably warmer, but still without rain, now very badly needed. The Abilene section has had a few good rains, and with much warm weather range and livestock conditions are much better than elsewhere but are still none too rosy.